



TGS

PRINCIPAL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr Valentine, Trustees and members of the Townsville Grammar School community, I have the honour of presenting the one hundred and thirty-fifth Annual Report of Townsville Grammar School. It is also my pleasure to welcome our guest speaker to our Speech Day Ceremony today, Mr Phillip Thompson OAM, MP, Member for Herbert.

As I complete my sixth year as Principal of this wonderful School, I wish to extend my gratitude to all in our community for your ongoing support throughout the year – your collegiality and optimism has been so greatly appreciated.

THE SCHOOL IN 2023

2023 marks the 135th anniversary of Townsville Grammar School and it is my pleasure to report that the Townsville Grammar School has experienced another positive year across all aspects of its operations.

We commenced the year with a total enrolment of 1,272 students from Prep to Year 12, comprising of 544 students in the Junior School and 728 Middle and Senior School students. We conclude 2023 with a total of 1,274 students enrolled.

The enrolment in the School's Early Learning Centres remains very strong with classes at capacity. Whilst the School continues to operate in a highly competitive, economically challenging environment, enrolments into the future remain positive.

For me, when reflecting on the highlights of the year, these include:

- A wonderful Scholars' Assembly held in February, acknowledging the academic success of the 2022 Year 12 cohort. Congratulations to 2022 Dux of the School, Nandan Kumar and Proxime Accessit, Lily Roehr.
- The wide variety of student-led charity and community events organised this year, such as the Multicultural Day, Colour Run and Pingpongathon. This year saw the holding of our inaugural Multicultural Day and it was pleasing to see so many of our students fully engaged in celebrating the diversity of our student enrolment.
- This year, we were able to run our full program for Camps & Activities Week, enabling all students from Years 7 to 12 to gain valuable life skills from their involvement in the broad range of activities on offer.
- A full schedule of touring opportunities for students was possible this year. Tours included the Junior School Sports Tour, a Netball Tour to Canberra, the Year 12 New Zealand Ski Trip run for the first time since 2019, and the Year 7 Canberra Tour.
- Our 135th Founders' Day on 16 April including the commencement of an avenue of trees in preparation for the School's 150th celebrations.
- A number of successful Past Grammarians Association functions were hosted this year including a Brisbane get-together, a Business Breakfast with NQ Cowboys CEO, Jeff Reibel, as guest speaker, and the annual Past Grammarians Reunion. It was very pleasing to launch a collection of historical articles authored by former Deputy Principal and School Archivist, Bill Muller, collated into a book titled Our Place, Our People, Our Stories, A Collection of Essays.
- Our Parents' Network had another successful year supporting the operations of the School. They also organised a number of successful functions including the Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day celebrations and a hugely successful Black & Gold Carnival held on the Annandale Campus in August.
- The outstanding output from our Performing Artists throughout the year. From the Senior School Production of a Little Shop of Horrors to the Junior School performance of A Little Night of Music and the brilliant individual and ensemble results at the Townsville Eisteddfod.
- The third Annual Tweddell Leadership Dinner hosting student leaders from across Townsville. This year's guest speaker was local solicitor and former School Captain, Ms Sally McCutcheon (12/1997).
- The School held its sixth annual Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp hosting 30 children with disabilities for three days over the September holidays. We were also very pleased to host the Sony Camp National Conference in June with over 25 schools from across Australia and New Zealand in attendance.
- The wide variety of events marking significant milestones for students including the 100 Days of Prep celebrations, the Year 12 Formal and the ELC, Year 6 and Year 12 Graduation Assemblies.
- The Girls 1st VIII winning the Head of the River.
- The Boys 1st XV making the Rugby Grand Final.
- Grammar 8 winning their Netball Grand Final.
- Three students representing their country - Sasha-May Flegler (netball), Alexandra Holt (aquathon) (12/2023), Julia Fulton (softball) (11/2023), represented Australia this year.
- The Under 18 Girls finishing in the top eight at the Queensland All Schools Touch Championships.
- The Grandparents & Special Friends' Days held on the Junior School campuses are very special days for the students and their Grandparents.
- The commitment and dedication of the Year 6 students towards their Melior Exi program. Always a wonderful achievement for our Junior School students.
- School House officially re-opened after more than a decade of renovations.

CURRICULUM

2022 QCAA AND IB RESULTS

Our 2022 cohort of students performed very well in both the QCE (ATAR) system and the IB Diploma Programme. Notable achievements from 2022 include:

Top ATAR score 99.40
27.8% of students achieved the equivalent of 95.00 and above
42.6% of students achieved the equivalent of 90.00 and above
Median ATAR was 87.60
Median IB Score was 35
Nine of our students received QCAA Academic Commendations for receiving straight A results in six General subjects.

SCHOLARS’ ASSEMBLY / SPEECH DAY PRIZES

At our Scholar’s Assembly at the start of 2023, we celebrated the success of the 2022 cohort with the presentation of the Speech Day prize awards for our graduating Year 12 group. The Mary Foley-Elliott Memorial Prize for Dux of the School was awarded to Nandan Kumar (12/2022), the Laurence Edward Wilkins Prize for Proxime Accessit was Lily Roehr (12/2022) and the Quick Family Prize for Academic Excellence was awarded to Thomas Middleton (12/2022). The Scholar’s speech was delivered by Harrison Leavers (12/2022) who reflected on his journey at TGS from Year 4. He spoke of the importance of being grateful, taking on all opportunities that the School has to provide and also encouraged students to put down their phone, which was a timely reminder of the distractions that students face when completing their studies.

CUM LAUDE

On Monday, 31 July we celebrated the academic success of our students at our annual Cum Laude Ceremony Presentation. Each year, we acknowledge the outstanding work of several Year 12 students through the Alan D Morwood Academic Awards. These awards are presented to students who have achieved a Cum Laude Award in each of their six years at TGS since Year 7. This year we had 17 Alan D Morwood Academic Award winners with four of these students receiving the additional distinction of gaining a Maxima Cum Laude in each of the past six years. These students were:

- Freya Boggild
- Sienna Caniato
- Phillipa Dowling
- Saachi Hira (12/2023)

Other Morwood recipients were

- Nils Cumming
- Rhea Joshi
- Tara Kelly
- Alexander Lane
- Harper Muller
- David Nugent
- Arjun Prakash
- Thomas Rimmer
- Aimee Segal
- Alex Tao
- Shreya Urkude
- Ella Wachenfeld
- Maher Zulfiqur (12/2023).

PRO DILIGENTIA AWARDS

Pro Diligentia Awards continue to remain a consistent focus for our students. These awards recognise the work ethic of our students which is pivotal to their success in their studies. Teachers look at organisation, homework, class work and effort to make their judgement on student work ethic. In Term 1, we had a total of 321 receiving these awards and in Term 3, 145 students received Pro Diligentia Awards and 208 students received Pro Summa Diligentia Awards. A total of 353 Awardees at our Term 3 ceremony. Striving to achieve this award will ultimately produce the best academic results for students.

NAPLAN 2023

The National Literacy and Numeracy tests (NAPLAN) were conducted earlier this year in March, through an online platform for our Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. A change in reporting of NAPLAN results has seen the introduction of four levels: “exceeding”, “strong”, “developing” and “needs additional support” as opposed to the previous ten proficiency bands. At Townsville Grammar School, our students continue to perform well above the Queensland state average in all areas.

ICAS COMPETITION RESULTS (NW)

A number of our students continue to perform well in the ICAS competition (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) produced by the University of New South Wales. This year, students participated in English, Mathematics and Science. Congratulations to Ralph Kii (7/2023) who received a High Distinction in Science placing him in the top 1% of the students in the competition.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS P-12

Alongside our comprehensive curriculum, we proudly host annual curricular events that further enhance our students’ skills and confidence. For instance, students in Years 4-6 eagerly participate in the Public Speaking Competition, honing their communication and presentation abilities. Meanwhile, students in Years 3-6 enthusiastically engage in our Writing Competition, fostering their creative writing talents. These events not only showcase our commitment to holistic education but also encourage our students to excel academically and develop important life skills.

The most significant highlight in curriculum in 2023 was the introduction of Future Ready Skills for our Years 7 – 9 students, which complemented our Wednesday afternoon Future Ready Program across the Senior School.

The development of the bespoke TGS Future Ready Skills subject was a result of our extensive research across a number of schools and programs from around the state and internationally. This innovative and targeted curriculum provides an authentic extended learning opportunity for students in Years 7 - 9 to develop critical and creative thinking along with collaborative skills. The program equipped them to solve real-world problems and challenges. The explicit teaching of skills was a pivotal part of the learning opportunity.

Through the skills program, students were presented with an authentic problem for which they were tasked to find a solution. In doing so, students were encouraged to seek and understand global perspectives and to promote sustainability, whilst being guided by their moral compass.

In developing their solutions, students needed to research, question and reflect based on feedback. The process of learning through success and failure and the promotion of deep thinking, resulted in high quality work.

In addition to the teaching of these skills, students were assessed through the use of criteria and marking rubrics which allowed teachers to report on individual student progress. The reports were provided each semester and they indicated how students were developing compared with their cohort.

The introduction of the program has resulted in a significant shift in teaching and learning across the School with a focus on the skills of creative and critical thinking, collaboration and teamwork, communication, personal and social skills and digital literacy. With the explicit teaching of these skills, students will ultimately improve their performance across all their subject areas.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The School has developed an effective induction and orientation program for our new staff. This includes a whole day of starting to understand our culture and what makes us an effective and supportive school focused on maximising learning in the classroom.

Each year, we have several early career teachers join our staff. Twice a term the early career teachers (those who have been teaching for less than four years) meet with our Head of Teaching and Learning, Dr Paul Welch. Our program covers effective pedagogy, managing an effective learning environment and preparedness for parent/teacher meetings. We also support early career teachers to gain full registration with the Queensland College of Teachers.

TEACHING AND LEARNING FRAMEWORK (TLF)

Our Teaching and Learning Framework sets out what is important and needs to be attended to for our teachers and students to be effective in learning at Townsville Grammar School. There are three sections: The Pedagogical Framework, Teacher Attributes and Learner Traits.

Our Academic Staff professional development sessions throughout the year focus on different elements of the framework. Our aim is to continually improve the way our teachers teach and our students learn. We make use of the considerable body of relevant research available to help us improve.

In the last year we have partnered with the newly founded Research Invested Schools network (RISn). This is a collective of the most forward looking and progressive schools in Australia. By undertaking their own action research, they provide context-relevant, evidence-based approaches to further deepen the learning experiences of their students. We are excited to be a part of this group. Current research being undertaken at Grammar includes a longitudinal cohort study investigating the metacognitive development of our students across years. The aim is to see if the teaching and learning initiatives currently being undertaken, over time, help raise the metacognitive awareness of our students. Many studies have linked the ability to 'think about ones thinking' (metacognition) with higher levels of performance both at school and in later life.

QUALITY TEACHING ROUNDS

Part of our TLF includes the Teacher Attributes section. We use the Quality Teaching Framework, developed by the University of Newcastle, to help our teachers intentionally reflect on their teaching practice. Using this specific process of peer observation and feedback conversations staff are assisted to reflect on their own teaching practice, while also being able to observe and learn from other staff. Every teacher at Grammar is part of a Professional Learning Community. Quality Teaching Rounds has been used for two years at Grammar and is seen by staff as a supportive and helpful process of continual improvement.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT (P-12)

Educational Support offered at Townsville Grammar School is guided by evidence-based teaching practice and follows the inclusive education model. Its focus is on enhancing student access to the curriculum and learning environment; participation of all students in educational programs; and removing, where possible, any barriers for students with disabilities and learning difficulties.

Junior School Learning Support performs the vital role of identifying individual learning difficulties early on in the School's younger cohort and then providing the necessary and essential intervention in collaboration with the classroom teacher. Both Literacy and Numeracy support was offered to students in Years 1 to 6 across both Junior campuses. Students worked towards achieving success, through either individual goals or aligned classroom curriculum, as well as in small groups or in classroom settings.

At the Senior School, changes were made in developing improved Individual Education Profiles (IEP), written for students identified with having learning difficulties or medical conditions that required some form of adjustment. Similar profiles were written for students diagnosed with having a disability, with individualised learning goals.

Student Support Plans (SSPs) for students who require classroom adjustments, were reviewed and updated. Collegial collaboration with teachers, specialists, parents, and Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ), regularly occurred to support the implementation and documentation of ongoing adjustments for children within each classroom. This was documented and reported through the National Consistency Collection of Data (NCCD).

ART

The year 2023 has witnessed another outstanding year for our Art students who have consistently produced work of exceptional quality across all year levels. Our Visual Art curriculum continues to inspire creativity, critical thinking and cultural awareness, allowing students to explore various artistic concepts and techniques.

Year 7 students embarked on a culturally enriching journey inspired by the Gond tribe of Central India. They were given the task of experimenting with visual elements to symbolically represent the element of water. Continuing their exploration of the natural world, Year 7 students delved into Australian Indigenous art, focusing on the Thanaquith people and artist Thanakupi. With the guidance of their art teachers, they used their newfound understanding to create ceramic pots symbolically representing the element of earth.

Exploring contemporary art, Year 8 students drew inspiration from artists Craig Redman and Karl Maier, delving into self-portraiture techniques using acrylic paint and Posca markers. They also studied artists Jan Nelson and Vernon Ah Kee, expanding their understanding of portraiture diversity through photography and pencil drawing.

Year 9 was marked by a personal journey of self-expression as students plunged into a yearlong 'A-Z

of Me Postcard Project'. They created an impressive collection of 26 postcard-sized artworks, each illustrating objects, people and places using various drawing, painting and printmaking techniques.

Year 10 students began by pondering the fundamental question, "What is Art?". They created suitcase artworks inspired by artists Yin Xiuzhen and Mohamad Hafez, delving into themes including emotional baggage, environmental concerns and travel memories. Inspired by Edvard Munch's The Scream students also created modern interpretations to express their feelings about current world events. Unit 3 brought forth a delectable exploration as students delved into the fascinating concept of 'Food as Art' producing two-dimensional artworks together with three-dimensional ceramic sculptures of food items.

Year 11 IB and QCAA students explored the concept 'Art as Lens' examining different viewpoints and creative processes to explore their material world. They studied artists Sophie Munns and Jacqueline Scotcher, enhancing their understanding of places and objects.

IB students embarked on a Comparative Study of three artists from different times, places and cultures and a Process Portfolio documenting experimentation, exploration and manipulation of various techniques in preparation for their exhibition. QCAA students began Unit 2, 'Art as Code' which challenged students to create experimental artworks using diverse processes and symbol systems in response to Magnetic Island, influenced by first Australian artists Elisa Jane Carmichael and Judy Watson.

In their final year of senior schooling, our Year 12 artists began an exploration of the concept of 'Art as Knowledge.' In this initial stage of their self-directed body of work, students responded to CNN's feature on Qiu Zhijie's 'Mapping the World' and Katharine Harmon's introduction to 'THE MAP AS ART.' Research and experiments informed their art practice, enhancing their understanding of the world.

The journey continued with Inquiry Phase 2, which marked the second stage in the self-directed body of work. As artists, students extended their knowledge, further developing their art practices, and using their artworks as powerful tools to communicate knowledge to their audience. The challenge was to reflect on how art can effectively communicate and map their reactions and connections to the world.

In the final unit, students explored 'Art as Alternate' enriching their knowledge and experiences through creative thinking and alternative methods of artmaking, emphasising innovation and risk-taking. We look forward to witnessing their continued artistic development beyond school, anticipating the innovative contributions they will make to the world of visual art.

In conclusion, the commitment and dedication of our students and teachers have made this year another remarkable success in the vibrant world of visual arts. Our Visual Art students have exhibited exceptional growth as artists and critical thinkers throughout 2023. Their willingness to embrace contemporary concepts, experiment with diverse techniques, and engage with the world in new ways reflects their dedication and passion for the arts.

BUSINESS & HUMANITIES

This year, Business & Humanities staff continued to provide students with authentic learning opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom environment. Those studying Geography completed field trips, where they could observe real world activities and collect data which was further unpacked and investigated in class. In Year 9, students travelled to the Burdekin to investigate and evaluate sustainable farming practices in the sugar cane industry. Our Year 10 Geography class examined coastal erosion and management techniques at Rowes Bay and the Year 11 Geography class visited various locations around Ingham and Townsville to learn about challenges these communities face in becoming more liveable and sustainable. They heard presentations from various council members and got to see some of the exciting initiatives being implemented to improve liveability in the region. Those studying Geography in Year 12 completed their field work by investigating water quality and aquatic weeds in the Upper Ross River. Here, students worked in conjunction with staff from the Townsville City Council to better understand how local land cover transformations have impacted this ecosystem.

In Business, Year 12 QCAA and International Baccalaureate Economics students took advantage of the opportunity to attend a business breakfast hosted by PVW Partners at The Ville to unpack the Federal Budget and its implications for individuals, businesses and the region. The event gave these students some insight into the real world of economics and the implementation of Fiscal Policy. Year 11 Legal Studies students had the opportunity to attend the Legal Studies Conference at JCU where various professionals in the industry unpacked a variety of human rights issues for students. Presenters also covered the topic of The Voice to Parliament referendum, discussed the importance of democratic representation and outlined the challenges facing rural and remote voters in accessing this right. This was an excellent opportunity for students to extend their knowledge pertaining to Unit 3 and 4 topics of study. Additionally, Economics, Accounting and Business Studies students had the chance to manage their own investment portfolio when competing in the ASX Share Market Game. The Entrepreneur and Investment Club continued to

work towards their capital goal, conducting a number of business ventures on campus, including the establishment of an after-school stall to create a regular income stream for the club. At the end of the year, new Board members were elected and it is hoped that this team will lead the group from the capital generation to investment phase.

DRAMA

In Year 7, the Dreamtime unit of work was introduced to allow all our students to identify and connect specific features and purposes of drama from contemporary and past times and enrich their drama making, including drama of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In Year 8, Stage combat was introduced to our unit of work, Pirates, furnishing the students with an important theatre skill. This was incredibly popular with the students and promoted some excellent results in assessment.

In Year 9, a new unit on Ancient Greek Theatre was introduced as a precursor for studying Greek tragedy in Year 10. Students explore the origins and significance of Greek theatre, including the use of masks, the role of the chorus, and the structure of Greek plays. Students also engage in hands-on activities, such as creating their own Greek-style masks, analysing excerpts from Greek plays, and performing.

In Year 10, students continued to work towards and prepare for Senior Drama. Their studies this year included exploring canonical texts across history from French revolutions, Greek theatre, Shakespeare and the Salem Witch Trials. They have learned how the self-guided rehearsal process is integral to the formation of theatre that can explore their own interests and understandings and interpretations of a play. They have worked on collaborating in ensemble and understanding how a performance relies on all members involved in planning, directing and acting. In the final term, they experimented with a range of contemporary theatre styles including musical theatre performances of Les Misérables and modern interpretations of Medea.

QCAA Drama and IB Theatre have continued to run successfully in Senior Drama. Many of our senior Drama students auditioned for the 2023 School Musical “Little Shop of Horrors”, with Caden White and Ellison Rahmel (12/2023) landing lead roles. Performance assessment evenings remained popular for parents and friends and are a great way for students to get used to performing in front of an audience other than their peers.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

In 2023, the DAT Faculty consistently nurtured creativity, innovation and the cultivation of practical problem-solving challenges among our students. By means of an engaging and dynamic curriculum, complemented by hands-on learning experiences, the students have been empowered, enabling them to envision, design and execute innovative twenty first century concepts.

This year, the faculty purchased two vacuum forming machines to support the delivery of a specialised unit focused on food production and nutrition. These machines were instrumental in enabling students to conceive, fabricate and 3D print intricate food moulds using food safe PETG sheets.

The Design and Technology Faculty consistently upholds its commitment to fostering cross-curricular prowess among students.

DANCE

Students in Years 10 – 12 have the opportunity to study Dance through the general ATAR subject offering, extending their understanding of movement and the human body, learning kinesthetically to become creative and collaborative developers and appreciators.

This year, for the Year 10 students, Jade Williams, a Dance physiotherapist, came in and worked with the dancers on Safe Dance Practice and how this provided a real-world experience for them.

Dance students' work was featured in the QCAA 2022 Dance subject report and another student has also been selected for the 2023 report.

FUTURE READY SKILLS

The Future Ready Skills program offers genuine real-world learning experiences that engage students in the Middle School in complex problem-solving tasks on a local, national and global context. This initiative stimulates students to explore diverse perspectives, cultivate empathy for others and apply cross-disciplinary knowledge to devise innovative solutions.

Year 7 students in 2023 were challenged to develop strategies to mitigate the proliferation of waste generated by an average Australian household.

Year 8 students were allocated an initial capital of \$5 to initiate and operate an enterprise, challenging student to maximise their financial gains through ethical means. Additionally, students needed to document all financial transactions, devise a comprehensive business strategy, develop a unique logo and identify their prospective target demographic.

Year 9 students were immersed in two distinct educational contexts. The initial context entailed the development of engineering solutions aimed at aiding farmers in Nepal in the transportation of agricultural produce across rugged terrain to reach markets. The second context involved introducing students to a diverse array of individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities known as “need knowers”. Each student was provided with a comprehensive “need knower” profile, detailing specific requirements, challenges related to physical or intellectual capabilities, personal interests, employment status, and healthcare accessibility based on their geographical location. Subsequently, students were entrusted with the task of conceiving innovative solutions to assist their assigned “need knower” in accomplishing everyday tasks. This immersive experience deepened their understanding of the significance of empathetic design and the judicious use of terminology.

In the coming years, The Future Ready Skills program will continue to prepare our students for the ever-evolving and challenging world they will face as adults, to ensure they become equipped to take their place in the community.

ENGLISH

In 2023, we were blessed with a fantastic start to the year with no pandemic or natural disasters to interrupt teaching and learning. This provided an ideal backdrop for our senior students who made the most of these optimal circumstances and launched into their Internal Assessment with enthusiasm and determination. They invested commendable effort, embraced learning opportunities and were well-prepared for their External Exams.

Now in its fourth year, the Queensland ATAR syllabus is operating smoothly and the students' grasp of the Syllabus Objectives and course content is yielding gratifying outcomes in their Internal Assessments. Furthermore, we have witnessed two successive cohorts of IB students excel in the new English A - Language and Literature course, with very pleasing results. This program continues to flourish, nurturing critical thinking, internationally minded and open-minded young individuals. However, the IB certainly has not escaped the effects of COVID and this year's graduating class will mark the inaugural cohort, under the new syllabus, to complete the full spectrum of assessment tasks.

In the Middle School curriculum, our dedicated focus on literacy and skill development remains a priority. We are committed to ensuring that students master the essential reading and writing skills needed for success in their senior studies. To continue with this goal in 2023, we embarked on an exciting new initiative that aims to deepen knowledge and comprehension of the novels studied from years 7 – 10 in Term 3. The English

Faculty took the lead in creating 'Comprehension and Reading Guides' for each novel, employing the Three-Level Guide approach to reading comprehension. The initiative is aimed at nurturing literacy and comprehension skills at a literal, inferential and evaluative level while students engage with their novels. The results have been remarkable; increased student knowledge, deeper understanding and rich ideas about the texts have led to fantastic classroom discussions and activities. Furthermore, this year introduced some fabulous new units. For instance, Year 9 delved into their creativity in 'A Moment of Suspense – Imaginative Writing,' while Year 10 explored rhetoric in 'Voices for Change – The Power of Campaigning'. In Year 10 Extension English, students explored the captivating realm of fictionalising real events in 'Based on a True Story – The Fine Line Between Fact and Fiction.' These enriching additions have added a vibrant dimension to our curriculum.

In what has now become a cherished tradition, the English Faculty collaborated with the Library for the third consecutive year to put together a spectacular 'Book Week'. 2023 saw a bigger, better and more vibrant Book Week Free Dress Day where both staff and students adorned themselves as their favourite fictional charters. From Dr Seuss to Shakespeare, from Where's Wally to Lord of the Flies, the day was buzzing with energy and delight.

Once again, we rallied to support the Aboriginal Literacy Foundation, an extraordinary organisation dedicated to providing access to reading materials in remote Indigenous communities across Australia. The funds raised by our students during 'Book Week' will be instrumental in procuring and delivering books and literacy resources to these communities.

Additionally, for the more creatively inclined, we hosted our third annual blackout poetry competition which produced some thought-provoking and visually stunning pieces from our exceptionally talented students. We are certainly looking forward to expanding and enriching this celebratory week in 2024, as we endeavour to foster a deep-seated love for books and reading within our school community.

HOSPITALITY

It has been another busy and exciting year in the Hospitality Department. The Year 11 Hospitality students have been involved in many functions this year assisting with the Netball, Rowing and Rugby dinners, as well as producing several buffet lunches for each other as part of their on-going assessment.

The Year 12 cohort had an excursion to Hooch and Fellow, a cocktail lounge owned and run by a past Grammarian and were captivated by all the information imparted to them. As part of their assessment in fine dining the Year 12s also visited Jam Corner to enjoy a fabulous meal, served to us by past alumni now employed within the Hospitality industry.

The coffee cart continues to be popular with cold drinks and frappes now offered and has become an integral part of the Hospitality Department. It has proven to be very popular for Friday lunchtime coffee for staff and students.

The Hospitality Department also assisted with the baking of over 200 ANZAC biscuits, that were kindly packaged by our boarders and sent to families affected by the Gulf of Carpentaria floods earlier in the year.

As we look forward to the start of 2024, a new work program is currently being written for the Applied Hospitality syllabus which promises to enhance our students' transferable skills, making them more desirable to the workforce during and beyond their schooling.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This year has been another great success for our Health and Physical Education (HPE) classes. The Senior PE students have continued to produce a very high standard of work. Our 2023 cohort have performed particularly well in their IA2 Reports, where students were able to analyse an ethical dilemma and synthesise a strategy to improve positive engagement and ethics within their given situation. The Year 11 students have successfully created individualised sport psychology strategies to enhance their sporting performance in touch football and we have seen significant progress in the quality of their work in preparation for next year.

Physical Education becomes an elective in Year 10, where students begin their journey into Senior PE. The learning experiences shift from being health related to the domain of Sport and Exercise Science. Students have been investigating their tactical awareness through the sport of Netball, where they have evaluated their ability to demonstrate movement strategies and analysed their decision making in various game scenarios.

In Middle School HPE, students have participated in a wide array of physical activities to learn the important social skills that can be developed through sport and to improve their fundamental movement sequences. Year 7 started their journey in HPE by reflecting on their own health, wellness and development to investigate how to live a healthier lifestyle. Year 8 students developed their understanding and application of First Aid, CPR and Injury Assessment and Management. Year 9 students presented some interesting and engaging pitches, when they were tasked with introducing a new sport that would provide increased interest, access and equity for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games.

ICT

Building on the success of previous cohorts, the number of 2022 Digital Solutions students awarded an A overall in the subject was 86%. Compared to 75% of the students at TGS in 2021 and only 24% of the students across the state in 2022; this is an outstanding achievement. Whilst all students should be proud of their achievements, a special mention goes to Hasindi Gamage (12/2022) whose work was sampled in the QCAA's Subject Report to demonstrate best practices when completing the IA3 assessment. The results obtained by the 2023 cohort for their three internal assessments matches the calibre of previous years putting them on target to maintain the above average results we expect to see from our students.

For the second year running students in Year 10 studied 'The Internet of Things'. This demanding unit requires students to build prototype devices comprising of ESP32 Wi-Fi enabled microprocessors and a range of sensors and output devices. To be successful the students coded the microprocessors using the Arduino IDE and a variant of the C++ programming language. Utilising the Wi-Fi capability, these devices would then communicate with web interfaces created by the students and store data as required in online databases. With the use of Python when programming robots, and the range of Web Development completed throughout the year, this brings the number of different coding languages experienced by Year 10 students to 7. Exposure to such a range of different languages enables students to adapt to the endless possible problems they may face where the use of Digital Technologies can provide a solution.

After their successful introduction in 2022, a number of additional Kitronik Arcade handheld games consoles were purchased for the Year 9 cohort to use when coding their own games using MakeCode Arcade.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

At Townsville Grammar School, we are fortunate to offer two programs of study in our Senior Years. The Senior Assessment and tertiary entrance system (otherwise known as the ATAR system) and then also the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. The IB programme offers a curriculum that is recognised and respected by tertiary institutions internationally.

A part of the IB Core is the component on Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS). CAS encourages students to learn to balance their academic commitments with a project incorporating these aspects. The TGS Colour Run was an IB student's CAS project which was first conducted in 2022 and has continued in 2023. Another CAS project was a Multicultural Day held on 17 March 2023, where students organised food, stalls and activities with the theme "Embrace our Differences". These add value and enrich the experiences of our students with our School.

This year, we will celebrate our twelfth IB graduating cohort, with 12 candidates completing the Diploma Programme. Their dedication to embracing the vision of the IB has been outstanding and we look forward to sharing their success when IB results are released early in the new year. In 2023, we welcomed a new cohort of 15 enthusiastic learners to the IB. Their commitment to meeting the academic challenges of the Diploma Programme has been apparent throughout the year and there is every indication that they will continue to flourish personally and academically as they enter the second year of the course.

A highlight of the IB year included the IB Retreat, in which students took part in a wonderful weekend of activities designed to embody the mission of the IB. Students participated in community service with the C4 (Community for Coastal and Cassowary Conservation) in Mission Beach, white water canoeing on the Tully River, hiking and swimming at Echo Creek Falls, as well as laser tag and an obstacle course at the Echo Creek Adventure Camp. An important feature of the retreat was the opportunity for Year 12 students to connect with the Year 11 students to provide an insight into the IB experience and to share their wisdom.

MATHEMATICS

A number of students have been involved in Mathematics Enrichment activities in 2023.

In Term 2, 23 students from Years 7-10 completed the Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians, a problem-solving competition for elite mathematicians. The results were pleasing with one Distinction and seven Credit certificates awarded. Our Distinction winner was Si Cheng (Mosa) Dong (8/2023).

In Term 3, 23 students from Years 7-12 completed the Australian Mathematics Competition with nine Distinctions and eight Credit certificates being awarded. Distinction winners were

- Si Cheng (Mosa) Dong (08/2023)
- Harry Baxter (09/2023)
- Hyun Jin Jung (10/2023)
- Gemma Morris (10/2023)
- Kritika Ponangi (10/2023)
- Jonathan Davis (11/2023)
- Charlotte To (11/2023)
- Sabeer Nayyar (12/2023)
- Maher Zulfiquer (12/2023)

The following Year 10 Mathematical Methods HL students attended the 2023 QAMT Mathematics Camp on Magnetic Island in August:

- Kritika Ponangi (10/2023)
- Cherry Leung (10/2023)
- Hannah Jung (10/2023)
- Harini Ramesh (10/2023)
- Eleanor Howard (10/2023)
- Sophia Shaw (10/2023)
- Gemma Morris (10/2023)
- Matilda Costello (10/2023)

The aim of the annual camp is to foster an interest in Mathematics amongst particularly talented students and to expand their horizons. The students were accompanied by staff member Robyn Johnson, who is also the camp co-ordinator.

MODERN LANGUAGES

In January, Hanalei Cheng, Minhyung Oh, Sara Napier, and Isabella Wong (11/2023) participated in the UQ Institute of Modern Languages High School Enrichment Program in Brisbane. The four Year 11 students were able to focus on improving their listening, reading, writing and speaking skills in Chinese, Japanese and Spanish while experiencing various classroom activities. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students to practise their language acquisition over the holidays and further motivate their learning leading into their Senior studies.

Congratulations to the languages students who participated in the Education Perfect Global Languages Championships online over the course of a week’s homework time, revising their term’s work for assessment tasks while accruing championship points.

GOLD AWARD

- Audrey Bartsch (10/2023) in French

BRONZE AWARDS

- Priya Anand (8/2023) in Japanese
- Crystabella Chan (11/2023) in Japanese
- Ella Cumming (7/2023) in French
- Jenna Curtis (10/2023) in French

CREDIT AWARDS

Many students worked diligently with nine students receiving a Credit Award for their efforts:

- Sofia Blanco-Boyle (9/2023) in French
- Lily Bleys (11/2023) in Japanese
- Keannie Gamia-Nai (7/2023) in Japanese
- Eleanor Howard (10/2023) in French
- Ralph Kii (7/2023) in Japanese
- Charlotte To (11/2023) in French
- Tefatu Torie (7/2023) in French
- Oliver Wilkinson (7/2023) in French
- Spiros Yiallourides (7/2023) in Japanese

Audrey Bartsch (10/2023), our EP Global Languages French Gold Award winner said, “I enjoy a good competition, and this was an opportunity to learn whilst being passionate and motivated!”

French Bastille Day, or as the French call it La Fête Nationale, was acknowledged, discussed, and celebrated in French classrooms with Years 9-12 French students cooking les crêpes au Nutella as a simple, French culinary delight. Being a languages student encompasses all things linguistic as well as cultural, including music, film, literature, differences in gestures, behaviours and protocols in certain situations. We aim to prepare our students to be well-versed and prepared for

their intercultural learning when they travel to a target language-speaking country.

Toshinori Sakamoto, master Taiko drummer, and Anne Norman, highly acclaimed musician and composer, entertained and guided our Japanese and Music students in a Japanese Taiko Drums and Flutes activity, even involving the musical talent of our Japanese and Music teaching staff. Taiko is a broad range of Japanese percussion instruments, the term “Taiko” referring to any kind of drum and has been part of the Japanese culture for centuries. This activity was a marvellous introduction to Taiko, and we thank the Parents Network for enabling the Modern Languages Faculty to purchase our own Taiko. In Term 4, interested students were invited to join a co-curricular group of Taiko to learn and experience the art of Japanese drumming.

It has been three years since students of Japanese have been able to participate in the Townsville Japanese Speech Competition. This year’s Grammar contingent was comprised of students from Years 7 to 11. In the lead up to this important event students rose to the challenge of preparing and practising their speeches and, on the day, presenting them with confidence and aplomb. After they had delivered their speeches, all students were required to respond to two questions, asked by the judges, about their presentation, responding in Japanese. Congratulations to Kylie Chan (9/2023) who was awarded first place in the Year 9 Division and to Rasika Chaudhary (8/2023) who was awarded second place in the Year 8 Division for their Japanese Speeches.

Three Year 11 IB students took the opportunity to test out their language learning in French and Spanish and entered the 2023 Modern Languages Teachers’ Association of Queensland Online Speech Competition. An even greater challenge for these Year 11 IB students was they had to compete and be assessed by Year 12 criteria and choose a topic that is in the Year 12 program. These students wrote and prepared their own target language speech, recorded themselves on video and submitted via the MLTAQ Youtube page for online judging, a new innovation since COVID, allowing northern region students to compete against students in the south of Queensland.

All three Grammar entrants received a prize for their original work in their target language speech of three minutes, in this state-wide Queensland competition:

- Gold Award to Victoria Shmeleva (11/2023) for Spanish
- Silver Award to Jonathan Davis (11/2023) for Spanish
- Bronze Award for Yasmin Eaton (11/2023) for French.

MUSIC

Music holds a special place in our lives, and it is equally important in the realm of education. At Townsville Grammar School, we recognise the intrinsic value of music as an essential component of a well-rounded education. Music engages the mind, body and soul, fostering creativity, discipline and emotional expression. Moreover, it enhances cognitive abilities such as problem-solving and critical thinking, making it an invaluable subject for academic and personal growth.

Studying an instrument and music at school yields a myriad of benefits. Firstly, it provides students with a unique outlet for self-expression. Playing an instrument or composing music allows students to convey their emotions and thoughts in a distinct and powerful manner. This form of artistic expression enhances their confidence and self-esteem.

Furthermore, studying music nurtures teamwork and collaboration. Our Year 7 and 8 students have been learning how to play instruments in bands and the results have been astounding. These young musicians have not only honed their musical skills but also developed essential interpersonal skills by working together to create beautiful and entertaining performances.

Another exciting development is our embrace of technology in music education. We have recently invested in new music technology for digital composition, enabling students to explore the world of music production. This addition to our curriculum opens up new avenues for creativity and innovation, preparing our students for the ever-evolving music industry.

In our continuous effort to provide the best possible musical education, we are pleased to announce the purchase of two drum kits to support the growth of our rock band program. One of these instruments being an electronic drum kit, allowing students the opportunity to explore the world of digital sounds and music creation. This initiative aims to offer our students a well-rounded musical experience and foster a love for diverse genres. At Townsville Grammar School, we understand the importance of catering to diverse student interests. Therefore, we have worked diligently to incorporate a wide range of musical genres across all year levels. From classical to contemporary, our curriculum reflects the rich tapestry of music, ensuring that every student finds their musical niche and passion.

Our students' achievements in music have been remarkable. Our Year 7 and 8 students have not only embraced the learning and playing of their instruments but have also explored the world of digital composition. They have created children's TV show music and even composed their own Rap songs, showcasing their creativity and talent.

Our Year 9 and 10 students are diligently refining their analytical skills, preparing them for senior subjects while exploring innovative topics within various musical genres and styles. This foundation will serve as a steppingstone for their future musical endeavours.

For our Year 11 and 12 students, their journey in music education is preparing them for both music careers and other professional paths. We take pride in the dedication and excellence displayed by our senior students.

Congratulations to Year 12 students Caden White, Mia McKinnon, Ellison Rahmel, Aimee Segal, Maria Gundorova and Nicholas McMillan (12/2023), on their outstanding achievements. They have been invited to audition for some of the top Music Universities in the country, a testament to their talent, hard work and the quality of our music program.

SCIENCE

The year kicked off with the annual Science and Engineering Challenge hosted by James Cook University, in partnership with the University of Newcastle. We had 30 eager Year 10 Science students participate in the day which aimed to challenge their problem solving and collaborative skills. Such tasks included building bridges, hovercrafts, wiring cities, building a bionic hand, constructing earthquake proof towers, and moving a Mars rover over undulating terrain. Embedded within each activity is the promotion of problem-based learning approaches which encourages students to find their own solution rather than a predetermined answer. We are extremely proud of the performance of these students and the way in which they represented themselves in the wider school community.

During the April school holidays, our RH Building was given a makeover receiving a Science Mural from local artist Jenny Finn. Jenny was commissioned to create a piece of 'hidden curricula' for one of our Science walls. The artwork was partly funded by a grant received from The University of Sydney, as part of Year 11 student Jonathan Davis's (11/2023) Eureka Science Prize winning entry. The wall features important scientists including Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton and Rosalind Franklin. We are incredibly proud of this piece of art and hope it continues to inspire future scientists for years to come.

The Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) is a competition for secondary school students in Year 10 to learn about the brain and its functions, learn about neuroscience research, find out about careers in neuroscience and to dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses. This year we had four students participate: Eleanor Howard, Gemma Morris, Harini Ramesh and Vienne Richardson (10/2023). Gemma and Harini were also invited to tour and participate in the second round of competition at the University of Queensland's Brain Bee Institute, where the girls were treated to lectures from leading neurologists and tours of the anatomy labs.

The Science for Almost Middle School (SAMS) program continued to inspire and enthuse members of our Junior School community during Term 3. This year we had 30 very eager Year 6 students from both our Annandale and North Shore campuses, joined by 12 International Baccalaureate (IB) student mentors. The program's mutually beneficial design allows the Year IB students to support their younger peers, whilst meeting their own CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) requirements. The Year 6 students partook in four afternoon activities each highlighting a different science discipline including Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, and Physics. This experience could not have been possible without the work of the specialist Science

teachers, who offered up their time to mentor the IB students and run the after-school workshops.

The International Science School (ISS), hosted by the University of Sydney returned to an in-person event in 2023. The event invites only 110 of the top achieving science students from across Australia and around the world to gather at the University of Sydney for nine days of inspiring and enthralling science lectures, tours and activities. With only seven students from Queensland selected to attend we were extremely proud to have had Jonathan Davis (11/2023) gain selection to this all expenses paid experience. In 2023, Jonathan was fortunate to hear from guest speakers including the United Kingdoms' leading fusion energy expert Professor Howard Wilson, dark-matter hunter and astrophysicist Professor Alan Duffy, quantum computing specialist Doctor Xanthe Croot and many others, including science commentator Doctor Karl Kruszelnicki.

The School once again hosted our students for the Australian National Titration Competition (ANTC) supported by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI). The RACI Titration Competition is designed to encourage secondary students to develop their scientific skills and understanding in Chemistry through undertaking the analytical method known as a titration to solve the concentration of an unknown sample of hydrogen potassium phthalate. This year we had 18 Year 12 students participate. A great night filled with titrations, pizza and laughs was had by the students as they tested their patience and precision in the lab.

Science Week for 2023 revealed we have some amazing young artistic scientists in our midst. The theme for 2023 was Innovation- Powering Future Industries. The School put on an array of science week themed activities to celebrate, including a guest speaker from Ark Energy, Past Grammarian Mr Lance Moody, a lunchtime presentation from Central Queensland Universities forensic psychologist Doctor Rebecca Wilcoxson, our annual Periodic Table scavenger hunt, Middle and Senior trivia competitions and a chemistry/art competition. The chemistry and art competition was new for 2023 and had an outstanding 23 entries. The two winning designs, as voted by their peers, belonged to Sophie Colston (9/2023) and Tzs Ying (Yumi) Sung (12/2023).

The Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Future You STEM Summit is committed to inspiring the next generation of STEM leaders. We were very proud to have Mir-Almaz Hira and Isabella Wong (11/2023) recognised by the selection committee for their outstanding STEM leadership potential. The students participated in practical experiences designed to inspire, engage and upskill their learning across core streams of engineering, health, and science.

The National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) continues to be a highlight for our talented Year 11 Science students. In 2023, the Forum returned to an in-person format with the option to attend either in Brisbane at the University of Queensland or Canberra at the Australian National University. This unique program is delivered by youth for youth and gives students the opportunity to meet with scientists, researchers, academics and industry representatives during a two-week program in January. It aims to give students a broader understanding of the diverse study and career options available in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to encourage continued studies in these fields. Students are also encouraged to meet with likeminded individuals and make connections outside of their own school, city and state. The selection process is highly competitive as there are only a limited number of positions available. Well done and congratulations to Jonathan Davis, Christian de Jersey, Mir-Almaz Hira, William McDarra, Marianthi Theodosiou and Yohance Vimallesh (11/2023) who have been selected to attend in January 2024.

Finally, our class excursions continue to provide an invaluable link to our curriculum through real world exposure to theoretical concepts. Our Year 7 students once again ventured to the Rows Bay Sustainability Centre to learn more about ecosystems and take a guided tour through the local wetlands. Year 9 attended their annual Billabong Sanctuary tour and were presented with specialised talks examining animal physiological, behavioural, and structural adaptations. The Year 11 and 12 biologists engaged with the field work component of their studies by venturing to Magnetic Island to conduct ecological surveys on local sea grass, mangrove and mollusc populations. The Year 11 Earth and Environmental Science students ventured to Charters Towers to examine Ravenswood mines and our Year 11 chemists, once again, attended the Glencore Copper Refinery. We are very grateful to all local businesses for their support to make our excursions possible.

CAREERS, WORK EXPERIENCE AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Through the Careers Department, the School continues to ensure that students are supported in their transition from school to future study, training or employment. This is achieved through targeted career education programs, interviews, work experience and vocational education and training (VET) courses. By providing students with the most up-to-date information, advice and options, they are empowered to make informed choices about their future.

CAREER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Over the course of the year, students in Years 10 – 12 have been participating in learning experiences designed to develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes regarding their study and work options. The School's Career Education program is informed by the Australian Blueprint for Career Development. A key feature of the program is the development of a Career Action Plan, which helps students take ownership of their career development and learning through the setting of goals, identification of actions and skills, and through engagement with activities.

The Year 10 Career and Personal Development (CPD) program provided students with the opportunity to undertake work experience placement across four days during Term 1. Year 10 career education activities in Term 2 focused on understanding how personality traits can affect career choices, how personal interests can influence career decision making, and how personal strengths and abilities can relate to career choices. During Term 3, Year 10 students used the results of career inventories to help inform the development of their Career Action Plan and senior education and training plan (SET Plan), and participated in small group consultation sessions with the School's Career Advisor regarding their career interests and pathways. The SET Plan is a key component of the School's career education program as it helps students, not only with their subject selections but, importantly, to create a roadmap for life after school by developing a learning profile that reflects their individual strengths, abilities and interests. The SET Plan is a living and working document that is adjusted as students improve their knowledge and understanding of the broad range of post-school options.

Year 11 students participated in small group Future Pathways Interviews with the School's Career Advisor during Term 2, where they revisited their SET and Career Action Plans. Reviewing the Career Action Plan provides opportunities for students to reflect on their developing and changing career interests, knowledge and skills.

In Term 3, Year 12 students participated in a Post-Schooling Pathway Interview with the Career Advisor to plan for their post-school transition into further education, training or employment pathways.

To support students in broadening their knowledge and understanding of post-school options, the Careers Advisor facilitated the delivery of workshops, information sessions, individual and small group career interviews, and individual/family career counselling support. This included lunchtime presentations by various Queensland and interstate universities and residential colleges.

The School has continued to foster positive relationships through engagement with local education, training and employment organisations including James Cook University, CQUniversity, Defence Recruitment, TAFE, Townsville Creative Technologies Centre (TCTC) and Police Recruitment. The School is particularly appreciative of local businesses and organisations who have hosted students for work placement, and supported the School's work experience program, to enable young people to gain invaluable industry insights.

POST-SCHOOL PATHWAYS

At the commencement of 2023, 103 of our Year 12 (2022) graduates had applied through QTAC for tertiary study at Queensland universities. Of these, 99 students (96%) received early or first round tertiary offers, with 75 students (73%) receiving an offer for their first preference. The majority of offers were from James Cook University (45%) and The University of Queensland (25%), followed by Queensland University of Technology (11%), Griffith University (11%) and University of the Sunshine Coast (2%). Health was the most popular study area in which students received offers (31%), followed by Society and Culture (19%), Science (14%), Engineering (11%), Creative Arts (5%), Education (5%), Architecture and Building (4%), Management and Commerce (4%), Information Technology (3%), Agriculture and Environment (1%).

LIBRARY

The PF Rowland Library is a busy space that students utilise for quiet reading, study and research before and after school and during morning tea and lunchtime breaks. To freshen up the space and replace existing shelving with new, modern shelves, we were fortunate enough to undergo a mini-makeover during the last Christmas holidays.

At the end of Term 4 2022, over 500 boxes were ordered and nearly 25,000 physical resources packed. These resources were relocated to the TB Whight Room in the library, and the library was completely gutted.

The project included the replacement of all carpets, a fresh coat of paint and new shelving. The transformation has been incredible and has freshened up the space, making it far more inviting for our students. Our shelves are at a lowered height, allowing for greater light into the space, student visibility in the shelves and the allusion of a much greater space. This renovation would not have been possible without the support of our Parents Network.

In Term 3, the North Ward Campus celebrated National Book Week and acknowledged the importance of reading for pleasure. As always, our students are encouraged to find the time to read for pleasure, as the benefits are innumerable. There is a wealth of research that

links reading for pleasure, particularly fiction, with improved academic, social and economic outcomes. In fact, research suggests that reading on social media platforms actually has a negative impact on reading practices, including a lack of engagement, cognitive stamina and the ability to concentrate.

This year's theme for National Book Week was Read, Grow, Inspire and as a school we celebrated with a number of activities that highlighted reading for pleasure and allowed all students to embrace the culture of reading in our school.

This year we held our very first Book Trailer Competition, which is an opportunity for students to create a short, multimodal presentation promoting their favourite book (similar to a movie trailer). We received some incredible entries from very talented students. This year's winner was Edgar Win (12/2023) who created an amazing Book Trailer for the graphic novel, Watchmen.

On the Monday of Book Week, we held a Black Out Poetry Competition. Black Out poetry is where students literally black out words on an existing written piece of text from a book, newspaper, or magazine and redact words, in order to come up with their very own poetry. The library was abuzz with excitement and great concentration. Upon completion, entries were placed on display and the whole school was invited to vote for their favourite entry. First place went to Layla Horsington (9/2023) and second to Kritika Ponangi (10/2023).

During the week, our Spirit Squad held a Macbeth Readers' Cup with a team of seniors competing against their teachers. It was a great opportunity for our Year 12s to engage in some pertinent revision for their upcoming External Examinations for General English, and they were victorious against the teachers.

Furthermore, we held our first ever DEAR event (Drop Everything and Read) during Form. A DEAR event invites the entire school to stop what they are doing and engage in silent reading for 25 minutes. The event was a wonderful success and we received an enormous amount of feedback on how enjoyable this event was.

Book Week's celebrations culminated with our themed Free Dress Day, whereby students had the opportunity of dressing in character from their favourite book. It was a resounding success, with a number of students and teachers coming to school for the day in costume. The funds raised from the gold coin donation were in support of the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

THE CO-CURRICULAR LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The Co-Curricular Program continues to grow and diversify with a broad offering of options for students, from dance to drama, instrumental music to choirs and ensembles, a range of clubs, sports and activities, providing every opportunity for students to explore their interests whilst striving for personal excellence.

In 2023, students and staff continued to produce exceptional results within this realm of the School life. The dedication of students is never in question, with the vast majority of students involved in the Co-Curricular life of the School. Certainly, these opportunities would not be available to students without teachers taking part as a leader, mentor or assistant of their chosen field of interests. We are grateful to have such a devoted team of teaching and support staff that ensure our program and the depth of options within remain accessible to our students.

SPORT & ACTIVITIES

Our sport and activities offerings continue to be an important part of the Co-Curricular program at the School. Students are provided with a range of opportunities to pursue personal excellence, in a supportive and inclusive environment. The strength of the sports and activities program continues to be the diverse range of pursuits on offer. The program caters to students looking to achieve personal excellence through representation of the School, region and state. A testament to the sports and activities program is the fact that it also allows students to experience the range of benefits associated with exploring individual limits and stepping outside their comfort zone. Certainly, the personal growth our students experience would not be possible without the dedication of our teachers, coaches and increasingly older students who willingly coach their younger peers.

SPORT

Our students represented the School in a number of sports through the Interschool Sport Program. The value in this aspect of the sporting program is that it allows our students to come together to represent the Black and Gold irrespective of their club affiliation. Rugby Union, Basketball, Touch Football, Water Polo, Football and Volleyball were all offered to students this year.

Our @Grammar programs continued to be a highlight this year with Cricket, Fitness and Fencing experiencing continued growth. Cricket continues to be an area of great interest particularly for our female students. The Open Girls Cricket Team achieved some wonderful results at the North Queensland School's Competition. After winning the Townsville competition the team progressed to the Greater North Queensland Final in Cairns.

Swim@Grammar experienced tremendous growth in 2023. This no doubt benefited the depth of our Interschool teams and, in turn, the fantastic results achieved at the Interschool Swimming Championships whereby our Junior School and Senior School teams finished first and second respectively.

The House competition continues to be a source of colourful and increasingly fierce competition. The introduction of an Interhouse cricket competition was certainly a highlight, made even more impressive by the fact that it was facilitated by Senior students.

Heads of House Mrs Kristal King (Hodges), Ms Jacinda Laing (Miller), Mr Timothy Joseph (Rowland) and Mrs Lizzii Watson and Ms Yvonne West (Whight), have once again led from the front, instilling in their Houses a desire to compete with pride, enthusiasm and a high degree of sportsmanship. They have been ably supported by their Assistant Heads of House and Captains. The close nature of the major carnivals this year points to the high levels of participation across all four Houses.

All three carnivals were close fought affairs this year. Hodges was victorious in Swimming this year with Whight claiming the Cross-Country title on the back of its depth and superior participation levels. Rowland House have had a wonderful year displaying renewed vigour and commitment to full participation by the red machine. They dominated the Athletics Carnival, winning by a large margin with Whight House doing enough to finish second and keep their hopes of winning the House Shield alive.

The perpetual awards winners in the Interhouse Competition were as follows:

The Duffin Shield for Boys Champion House – Whight House
The Grimsey Cup for Girls Champion House – Whight House
The Robertson Shield for overall Champion House – Whight House

With respect to Club Sport, TGS was, again, well represented in Netball, Rugby and Rowing whilst 2023 also saw a resurgence in the Touch Football program. We now have a large number of teams playing in the Townsville Junior competition and achieved some very pleasing results at NQ All Schools Championships with our Open Girls finishing second and our Open Boys also making a semi-final; a huge improvement on last year. The Open Girls team again contested the Queensland All Schools Championships held on the Gold Coast in the first week of October losing in the quarter final to eventual winner St Aidan's. Finishing in the top eight from over eighty teams in this high-quality competition is a wonderful effort.

There is no doubt that Grammarians of all ages are enjoying the benefits of playing Touch Football.

NETBALL

This year, Grammar Netball had 16 teams, from the U18s Grammar 1 team down to our Junior SetGo Divisions, who proudly took the court in the Black and Gold. It has certainly been a challenging season for many of our teams, and every week, it was clear the scores simply did not reflect the effort and development of our Netballers.

It has also been a successful year for umpiring. Under the guidance of our Umpire Coach and Coordinator, Kaitlyn Debney, we had seven girls achieve official competencies this year. Umpiring is such a huge part of netball and the fact is, without umpires, we cannot play netball. We look forward to building the Grammar Netball umpiring program next year, holding more development workshops throughout the year to provide our umpires and those wanting to start the opportunity to gain more experience.

In addition to the regular season, our girls and boys have been involved in Carnivals and competitions, as well as touring Canberra. It was certainly a higher level of netball in Canberra but despite some tough games our girls learnt some valuable lessons prior to the start of our own season. In June, the School participated in the very competitive Vicki Wilson Competition. We had five teams including, for the first time, two boys' teams coached by Leanne Russell and Alyssa Golding. The School achieved some great results from our girls teams this year, with the U18 Cup Championship team placing third, U15 Shield Championship placing second and our U15 Shield Development placing second.

The day after Vicki Wilson, three Grammar teams travelled to participate in the Burdekin Carnival. We also had eight teams play in the local McDonald's carnival this year, and recently our SetGo division teams had the opportunity to play in a one-day Future Diamonds carnival. These carnivals are an invaluable experience

for the girls to have fun whilst developing their skills playing against teams from our local North Queensland region. Next year, we are looking forward to participating in these carnivals and increasing the number of teams entered each carnival.

The end of the season was certainly thrilling. We had three teams make it to the semi-finals – Grammar 2, 4 and 8. Grammar 4 was, unfortunately, knocked out in the semis, and by forfeit default, Grammar 2 made it to the preliminaries. Grammar 8 won their semi-final after a very close game that ended in overtime and made it all the way to win the Grand Final, which also went into overtime. Congratulations to Grammar 8 and their wonderful student coaches Elenore Locke and Poppy Costello (11/2023).

The annual Netball Presentation Dinner celebrated the efforts from our 16 teams for season 2023 and gave recognition to the following major award winners:

- Most Valuable Player - Sasha-May Flegler (12/2023)
- Spirit of Netball - Elenore Locke (11/2023)
- Grammar 1 Most Consistent - Elsa Baker (12/2023)
- Grammar 1 Best and Fairest - Sasha-May Flegler (12/2023)
- Grammar 2 Most Consistent - Ruby Ironside (10/2023)
- Grammar 2 Best and Fairest - Montana Beldan (12/2023)
- Grammar 3 Most Consistent - Ella McDonald (10/2023)
- Grammar 3 Best and Fairest - Naomi Torie (11/2023)
- Grammar 4 Most Improved - Annalise Robertson (8/2023)
- Grammar 4 Best and Fairest - Cora Ta'ala-Segi (9/2023)
- Grammar 5 Most Improved - Akshaya Mallya (8/2023)
- Grammar 5 Best and Fairest - Emma Locke (9/2023)
- Grammar 6 Most Improved - Dexterlyn Torie (7/2023)
- Grammar 6 Best and Fairest - Phoebe Morris (8/2023)
- Grammar 7 Most Improved - Lucinda Stevens (9/2023)
- Grammar 7 Best and Fairest - Emma Jarvis (9/2023)
- Grammar 8 Most Improved - Bridget King (7/2023)
- Grammar 8 Best and Fairest - Taylah Green (7/2023)
- Grammar 9 Most Improved - Rylee Walsh (7/2023)
- Grammar 9 Best and Fairest - Breanna Easton (7/2023)
- Grammar 10 Most Improved - Cleopatra Waike (7/2023)
- Grammar 10 Best and Fairest - Sophia Logan (6/2023)
- Grammar 11 Most Improved - Gwen Stevens (6/2023)
- Grammar 11 Best and Fairest - Moira Beniwal (6/2023)
- Grammar 12 Most Improved - Teagan Paris-Browne (5/2023)
- Grammar 12 Best and Fairest - Taeun Seo (6/2023)
- Grammar 13 Most Improved - Sienna Clements (4/2023)
- Grammar 13 Coach's Award - Mackenzie Baker (4/2023)
- Grammar 14 Most Improved - Alexandria Payne (4/2023)
- Grammar 14 Coach's Award - Charlotte McCammon (5/2023)

- Grammar 15 Most Improved - Evelyn Speight (3/2023)
- Grammar 15 Coach's Award - Akshara Dinesh (3/2023)
- Grammar 16 Most Improved - Aarvi Raj (2/2023)
- Grammar 16 Coach's Award - Jessica Small (2/2023).

ROWING

Our TGS Rowers had another successful year, highlighted by Grammar's four gold medals, four silver medals and three bronze medals at the Head of the River Regatta.

The Grammar Rowing Team of 65 athletes excelled in 2023. Director of Rowing, Mr Corby Green, was superbly supported by a number of wonderfully committed coaches and Rowing Captain, Astin McClelland (12/2023).

Gold medal performances were achieved at the North Queensland Schools Championships in the following events:

- Girls Open Eight: Kate O'Dempsey, Zarah Moller, Emma Warne, Sally Broad (10/2023), Naomi Kutash, Yasmin Eaton (11/2023), Sophie Andrews (9/2023), Josie Broad (7/2023), Lane Scott (Cox) (11/2023);
- Boys Open Four: Brian Hayes, Jack Valentine, Charlie Maruff, Astin McClelland (12/2023), Sabeer Nayyar (Cox) (12/2024);
- Girls Year 10 Four: Zarah Moller, Emma Warne, Kate O'Dempsey, Sally Broad (10/2023), Saran Calleja (Cox) (9/2023);
- Boys Open Double Scull: Brian Hayes, Charlie Maruff (12/2023);
- Boys Open Eight: Astin McClelland, Charlie Maruff, Brian Hayes, Jack Valentine, Sam Scott, Rouven Kops (12/2023), Ephraim Anderson (11/2023), Braith Lamari (10/2023), Sabeer Nayyar (Cox) (12/2023).

At the All Schools Head of the River Regatta, the Girls 1st VIII placed first and the Boys 1st VIII placed second. In overall point score, the Boys' team placed third and the Girls' team placed third. Gold medal performances were achieved in the following events:

- Girls Open Eight: Kate O'Dempsey, Zarah Moller, Emma Warne, Sally Broad (10/2023), Naomi Kutash, Yasmin Eaton (11/2023), Sophie Andrews (9/2023), Josie Broad (7/2023), Lane Scott (Cox) (11/2023);
- Boys Open Four: Brian Hayes, Jack Valentine, Charlie Maruff, Astin McClelland (12/2023), Sabeer Nayyar (Cox) (12/2024);
- Boys Year 9/10 Double Scull: Finn Pacey, Arjun Nigam (10/2023);
- Girls Year 9/10 Double Scull: Sally Broad, Emma Warne (10/2023).

During the September break, TGS fielded a team of 15 Boys and 12 Girls to contest the Queensland Schools State Championships on Bucca Weir in Bundaberg. In all, our team featured in 21 events including 8 semi-finals and 7 finals. The following crew achieved a podium finish:

- Silver Medal, Boys Open Four: Brian Hayes, Jack Valentine, Charlie Maruff, Astin McClelland (12/2023), Lane Scott (Cox) (11/2023).

As part of the North Queensland U19 Boys Quad Scull the following TGS athlete achieved a Silver medal in the Inter-regional Championships; Brian Hayes (12/2023).

The annual Rowing Presentation Dinner celebrated the efforts of the team for season 2023 and gave recognition to the following major award winners:

- Most Improved Middle School Female Rower: Sophie Andrews (9/2023)
- Most Improved Middle School Male Rower: Nicholas Beaumont-Walsh (8/2023)
- Best Middle School Female Rower: Josie Broad (7/2023)
- Best Middle School Male Rower: Gus Maruff (9/2023)
- Most Improved Senior School Female Rower: Kenadi McGeachie (10/2023)
- Most Improved Senior School Male Rower: Rouven Kops (12/2023)
- Best Senior School Female Rower: Sally Broad (10/2023)
- Best Senior School Male Rower: Brian Hayes (12/2023)
- Most Improved Coxswain: Saran Calleja (9/2023)
- Best Female Coxswain: Lane Scott (11/2023)
- Best Male Coxswain: Sabeer Nayyar (12/2023)
- Most Valuable Female Rower: Zarah Moller (10/2023)
- Most Valuable Male Rower: Astin McClelland (12/2023).

RUGBY

In Club Rugby, the School fielded seven teams between Under 8 and Under 18 in the Townsville and District Rugby Union Competition. Our School 1st XV/Under 18 team was coached by Connor Barrett and Captain of Rugby was Justin Crane (12/2023). Our Under 18 team was our most successful in the TDRU competition, contesting the Grand Final against Brothers with the Under 12s also reaching the finals of their competition.

The annual Rugby Presentation Night celebrated the efforts of Rugby players for the 2023 season.

The following players were acknowledged as 'Best and Fairest' award winners in their teams:

- Under 8 Black – Brock Hull (2/2023)
- Under 8 Gold – Georgia Logan (3/2023)
- Under 10 Black – Royston Barker (5/2023)
- Under 10 Gold – Aston Miller (4/2023)
- Under 12 – Chase Davies (7/2023)
- Under 14 – Roldan Waike (9/2023)
- Under 18 – Justin Crane (12/2023).

We were proud of Jack Jackson (6/2023), Israel Kinobe (6/2023) and Chase Davies (7/2023) who were selected for the Townsville Brolgas Under 12 squad. Mac Flegler (11/2023) was selected in the Under 16 squad and Daniel Doggett-Ford (12/2023) and Felix Wright (12/2023) were selected in the Brolgas Under 19 Squad.

Reg Alcock (12/2023) was acknowledged as the club's Most Valuable Player in 2023 for his commitment, dedication and unwavering loyalty to Grammar Rugby. Over his time playing Rugby for the School, Reg played over 200 games.

SEVENS RUGBY

Across four days, our Under 8 to Under 18 boys and girls Rugby 7s teams basked in the North Queensland October sunshine, playing entertaining running rugby in the TDRU's Festival of 7s. Our U8 Gold Mixed, U11 Mixed and U12 Girls teams all made their respective finals and it was fantastic to see over 100 students involved in this growth sport, including a number of new faces to the sport wearing the Black and Gold for the first time.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

The School, once again, fielded the largest teams at the TSSS Swimming Cross Country and Athletics Championships with outstanding results in all of these events. These squads represented the talent and depth we have at the School and it was most pleasing to have so many students be selected to represent North Queensland.

REPRESENTATIVE STUDENTS

Queensland Representatives

- Ava Arnaboldi (8/2023) – Swimming
- Dakota Baxter (8/2023) – Swimming
- Oliver Bowen (10/2023) – Gymnastics
- Jessica Carrington (9/2023) – Swimming
- Sasha-May Flegler (12/2023) – Netball and Softball
- Julia Fulton (11/2023) – Softball
- Maria Gundorova (12/2023) – Swimming
- Alexandra Holt (12/2023) – Aquathon and Triathlon
- Jippe Lasschuijt (8/2023) – Hockey
- Matilda Richards (9/2023) – Athletics
- Angus Richardson (11/2023) – Track and Field
- Briah Ta'ala-Leaupepe (9/2023) – Country Rugby Union
- Cora Ta'ala-Segi (9/2023) – Country Rugby Union
- Caden White (12/2023) – Swimming
- Zachary White (7/2023) – Swimming
- Australian Representatives
- Sasha-May Flegler (12/2023) – represented Australia in Netball at the Youth Commonwealth Games, ultimately winning the gold medal
- Julia Fulton (11/2023) – Softball
- Alexandra Holt (12/2023) - Aquathon

Australian Representatives

- Sasha-May Flegler (12/2023) – represented Australia in Netball at the Youth Commonwealth Games, ultimately winning the gold medal
- Julia Fulton (11/2023) – Softball
- Alexandra Holt (12/2023) - Aquathon

ACTIVITIES

DEBATING

Debating encourages students to develop their critical thinking skills as they consider contentious issues from different angles. Debating was, again, a popular activity in 2023. Townsville Grammar School fielded a number of teams in Townsville Regional Debating Competition, representing a significant commitment on behalf of the students and staff. The standard of Debating was very high in 2023 and it was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic debaters present their prepared speeches. Debating promotes valuable life and interpersonal skills, as students have the opportunity to challenge their view on the world and develop new friendships. Whilst all of our teams experienced success at some of their debates, we are especially proud of our Senior Grammar 1 team who made it to their final, losing by the narrowest of margins. Our Junior Grammar 2 team demonstrated that the future of Grammar debating is in good hands by advancing to the semi-finals in an exceptionally tough competition. Debating Co-ordinator, Mrs Lizzii Watson, was well supported by our dedicated team of debating coaches and Debating Captains, Phillipa Dowling and Saachi Hira (12/2023).

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

For many years the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been offered at Townsville Grammar School to encourage our students to challenge themselves through setting and achieving goals across a range of activities. This internationally recognised scheme provides an opportunity for students to develop skills, display initiative and build self-esteem and is consequently highly regarded by both university admissions officers and potential employers.

The Award is an enriching program that invites young people between the ages of 14 and 25 to participate in a number of activities over a set length of time. Participation is entirely voluntary and is structured so participants can design their own unique program centred on their interests and passions.

Students at Townsville Grammar commence with the Bronze award and it is our hope to see them progress through the levels to subsequently achieve their Silver and finally their Gold awards.

To assist our students, achieve their Awards a number of Adventurous Journeys were run throughout the year. In March, candidates new to the program participated in a training day to learn about preparing and planning for an adventurous journey.

In July, Bronze and Silver Award candidates from Year 10 had the opportunity to participate in one of two ocean voyages on board the Queensland Sail Training vessel "South Passage". Forty-four students spent four days

and nights learning how to sail and manage life aboard a large 30m gaff rigged schooner. The students sailed the ship northwards through the Palm Island Group towards Hinchinbrook Island and then out the Great Barrier Reef before returning the ship safely to the Port of Townsville.

For many of our students these adventurous Journeys provide them with their first opportunity to experience life in the outdoors. This allows them to gain self-confidence as they safely move beyond their comfort zone and learn to appreciate the variety of remarkable wilderness areas that can be found close to the Townsville region.

This year Bronze Awards were issued David Adebiyi (11/2023) and Nina Jerome (11/2023). Receiving a Silver Award was Vivienne Roehr (11/2023).

INTERACT CLUB

Community Service opportunities abound at Townsville Grammar School and the opportunity to help others in need is made available to every student.

At the North Ward campus, one of the more visible community service groups is Interact, which is a junior division of Rotary International. This year the Interact Board comprised Elisa Jacob, Harper Moller, Sabeer Nayaar and Matthew Tanious (12/2023). This very mature group led a number of different community service activities this year at the North Ward campus.

They raised funds for the whole year through the sale of Snow cones on Friday lunchtimes and at the start of the year the citizens of the tragic earthquake in Turkiye and Syria were the recipients of funds raised through a pancake stall, car wash and snow cones.

In May, the annual Food Appeal drew donations from families on all three campuses and close to 3,000 food items were donated to the local Townsville charity of Food Relief NQ at the end of May.

In August, the Zonta Club's Birth Kits project was supported and close to 50 of our students helped to fold, pack and process 200 Birthing Kits to distribute to birthing attendants in third world countries to help try to ensure a clean birth environment to assist the ongoing health of mothers and their babies.

From September, all attention turned to fundraising for Pingpongathon, a charity which works with poor and vulnerable communities to help educate and work against the dehumanising sale of humans as slaves. The Pingpongathon event involved a single night in the Gym on 6 October, but was preceded by numerous awareness and fundraising events. On the night itself the students were able to show a total of funds raised as being over \$5,000. Huge credit for this must go to the executive board of Interact for 2023.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The School's Interschool Public Speakers had many opportunities to practise their skills and find success throughout 2023. In the Lions Youth of the Year competition the School had a strong field step up to compete against each other to earn one of three places to represent against Ignatius Park College at the Castle Hill Lions Club Event. At the time of writing this report, Kritika Ponangi (10/2023), Negine Jahangiri, Yohance Vimalesh, Vivienne Roehr, TJ Rono and Mir-Almaz Hira (11/2023) are set to compete for the other two places, alongside Zarah Moller (10/2023) who won the Club Public Speaking competition last year, in the 2022 event.

Once again, the School was well-represented at the United Nations Youth Conference and Evatt Model UN competition. Held at James Cook University, in March, the greater part of the two days was spent on the Evatt Competition Model United Nations negotiations over three UN style resolutions. The Evatt MUN (Evatt) is contested with students working in pairs representing allocated countries, having researched, or learning through the process, their nation's position on issues and relations with other nations, to negotiate agreement on the presented resolutions. Grammar was represented by 18 students, accounting for the largest contingent of Townsville students at this year's event. The student teams went on to take out four of the top five positions, including first and second places for Marthinus Farrell and Matthew Watson (12/2023) (representing Malta) and Sophie Chan (11/2023) and Cherry Leung (10/2023) (representing the Russian Federation), respectively. Both teams qualified for the State Evatt Final. Unfortunately, due to the finals moving to the first weekend of the September school holidays and the increased cost of airfares to attend, neither team was able to take up the opportunity to compete in the State Evatt Final.

Students also participated in two Grammar hosted local competitions, Interschool Public Speaking in Term 2 and the inaugural 'Denise Glasgow Short Notice and Impromptu Speaking Competition' in Term 3. Grammar students in Middle School and Senior School divisions competed against other Townsville high school students presenting speeches to young adjudicators to hone their skills. Taylah Green (7/2023) and Vivienne Roehr (11/2023) placed first in their respective Interschool Public Speaking divisions and Annabelle Brown (8/2023) placed second in the Middle School 'Denise Glasgow' competition whilst Vivienne Roehr placed third in the Senior School room.

The English Speaking Union of Queensland's Public Speaking Competitions for Secondary School Students, Junior, Intermediate and Senior division were held in April and July. David Golledge and Annabelle Brown (8/2023) placed first and second respectively in the Junior Competition. In July, the School was represented

by five students who all received valuable feedback, with TJ Rono (11/2023) taking second place. David Golledge received valuable experience in attending the State finals in Brisbane in June.

In August, at the inaugural 'Blah' Public Speaking Competitions, Advaita Sadhu (9/2023) and Jett Dawson (11/2023) won their respective divisions in this Rotary supported event. Finally, in September, at Townsville Eisteddfod, Anika Chavan (8/2023) won the Age 13 and 14 Public Speaking Solo Event.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The four Houses on the North Ward campus have continued to develop and undertake their House Community Service projects throughout 2023. Hodges House's visits to the Endeavour Foundation on Landsborough Street have continued, with students engaging in more organised activities with clients on occasional Wednesday afternoons. Miller House's visits to Townsville Foster and Rehoming for animals have been much appreciated by the organisation. Students visited and assisted with caring for surrendered and rescued animals several times throughout the year. Despite the rewarding nature of assisting with animal welfare, Miller House will be investigating another option for service in 2024. The students from Rowland House joined forces with local primary school, Belgian Gardens State School, and assisted with several activities throughout the year, including a fundraising carwash to assist in funding the Year 6 Canberra trip and their interhouse athletics carnival. Whight House has continued to strengthen their connection with nearby neighbouring school, Central State School throughout 2023, attending an orchestra afternoon in Term 1, a Pirate Morning in Term 2, the interhouse Athletics Carnival and end-of-term discos in Term 3 and Day for Daniel Fun Run and Fundraiser, Swimming Carnival and Christmas Concert in Term 4.

READERS' CUP

This year, we had five teams compete in Readers' Cup from our three campuses. Our teams were incredibly committed to the competition and met weekly throughout the term.

In the Year 7/8 category, one of our teams placed third place in the regional competition, and in the 9/10 category, our team placed first and second. This was a wonderful effort from our students and they were wonderful ambassadors for our School.

In early September, our Regional winners travelled to Brisbane for the day to compete in the State Finals at Moreton Bay College. Our team, including Winnie Shaw, Harini Ramesh, Kritika Ponangi (10/2023), Advaita Sadhu and Layla Horsington (9/2023), were wonderful ambassadors for the School. The team placed third,

missing out by a mere half point for second, and another half point for first.

PERFORMING ARTS

2023 has proven to be a remarkably eventful and fulfilling year within our Performing Arts department. Thank you to all our teachers, ensemble directors and dance instructors for their dedication and support throughout this year as we continue to grow the program. It has been especially exciting to see our new dance group, Grammar Blue, take off with such enthusiasm from students.

COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

Students honed their performance skills throughout the year at a plethora of community performance opportunities. Grammar Singers, Brass Ensemble, Grammar Black and Grammar Gold had the exciting chance to perform at the Our Townsville event in Anderson Gardens. Celtic Strings performed twice for the Townsville City Council's Strand Ephemera's Pink Piano. Our Dance students showcased their incredible Bollywood dancing skills at the Townsville Dentists' Conference Gala Dinner at The Ville. Several students from our School production of Little Shop of Horrors performed at the Red Shield Appeal Corporate Launch for the Salvation Army. Our musicians, once again, participated in the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, with outstanding performances by our Celtic Strings and Big Band ensembles in the AFCM Festival Garden. Finally, several of our senior choir members also had the opportunity to perform at a Citizenship Ceremony for the Townsville City Council and at the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the 2nd/4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment Association down at ANZAC Park. Students conducted themselves in an exceptional manner at each of these events and received many compliments from members of the audience.

OTHER PERFORMANCES

We also had a range of performance opportunities for students on School grounds. Early in the year, Senior school students, as part of Symphony Orchestra, visited the two Junior campuses to showcase the diverse instruments that can be learnt at school. Students at both primary campuses thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had lots of questions for our senior musicians. It was a delight to watch the older students interacting with and educating our young Grammarians.

Open Day provided another opportunity for our music, dance and theatre students to demonstrate their skills and entertain audience members throughout the afternoon. Brass Ensemble and Grammar Singers provided poignant performances at this year's ANZAC Day Ceremonies with Caitlyn Halfpenny (11/2023) and Jenna Curtis (10/2023) giving touching renditions of The Last Post and Rouse across our multiple campuses.

In Term 3, we had another successful Music Ensemble Showcase Concert which brought together every ensemble and choir from all three campuses within our very own Centenary Gymnasium and provided a unique opportunity for students to build connections across the entire school.

Finally, each week the School has been treated to an Assembly performance by our talented performing arts students. Thank you to the following students for having the courage to perform in front of the whole school this year:

- Annabelle Brown (8/2023)
- Ellison Rahmel (12/2023)
- Christian de Jersey (11/2023)
- Mia McKinnon (12/2023)
- Marthinus Farrell (12/2023)
- Mosa Dong (8/2023)
- Lucy Jepson (10/2023)
- Hanalei Cheng (11/2023)
- Sangweon Yun (12/2023)
- Huon Evans (12/2023)
- Freya Boggild (12/2023)
- Jack Dempsey (9/2023)
- Isabella Wong (11/2023)
- Lucinda Reid (9/2023)
- Lucinda Horn (10/2023)
- Caden White (12/2023)
- Eleanor Howard (10/2023)
- Charlotte To (11/2023)
- Mia Situ (8/2023)

PRODUCTIONS

This year we had 110 students take to the Civic Theatre Stage to bring the cult classic musical, Little Shop of Horrors, to life as part of our Whole School Production. The musical was directed by Sarah Binder, choreographed by Jacinda Laing, musically directed by Kate Hamill and vocally directed by Rachel Cairns. The lead roles were:

- Seymour, played by Caden White (12/2023)
- Audrey, played by Ellie Rahmel (12/2023)
- Mr Mushnik, played by Matthew Lai (10/2023)
- Orin Scrivello, played by Christian de Jersey (11/2023)
- The Greek Chorus Girls, played by Audrey Bartsch (10/2023, Alyssa Curtis (11/2023), Yasmin Eaton (11/2023), Jasmine Musumba (11/2023), Aimee Segal (12/2023), Amy Vollmerhause (12/2023)
- Audrey II, voiced by Max Parsons (12/2023) and puppeteered by David Adebisi (11/2023), TJ Rono (11/2023) and Justin Crane (12/2023).

The feedback from the wider Townsville community was overwhelmingly positive, with the School receiving many emails complimenting the students on their talent, professionalism and creativity.

Additionally, as part of Theatre Club, a group of 18 students completed The Scene Project with Queensland Theatre. Students were challenged to create their own unique 15 minute version of the play A Thousand Points From Zero by award-winning playwright, Steve Pirie. Students worked with a visiting artist from Queensland Theatre and shared their production with several other schools and actors from Queensland Theatre on Outcome Day. Students involved in The Scene Project included:

- Abbey Spring (7/2023)
- Hugh Pascoe (8/2023)
- Montego Wass (7/2023)
- Ella Cumming (7/2023)
- Lily Foreman (8/2023)
- Suravi Pandey (7/2023)
- Jasmine Lee (7/2023)
- Poppy Morris (8/2023)
- Priya Anand (8/2023)
- Isabel Mathew (7/2023)
- Jade Zhong (7/2023)
- Jade Menzies (8/2023)
- Hannah Bleys (8/2023)
- Matilda Dempsey (8/2023)
- Mika Leete (8/2023)
- Heidi Zahn (9/2023)
- Daniel O'Brien (7/2023)
- Mia Situ (8/2023)

Outcome Day was hosted by Townsville Grammar School in the Performing Arts Space and Alex Anthony (12/2023) assisted by operating lighting for all the productions.

We have also had several students perform in productions in the wider Townsville community. Caden White (12/2023) was in the Townsville Choral Society's production of Singing in the Rain and Daniel O'Brien (7/2023) was in the Townsville Choral Society's production of Freaky Friday. We had a large number of students across all three campuses in Libretto Studio's production of Frozen Jr including:

- Lucinda Reid (9/2023) playing Elsa
- Aimee Segal (12/2023) playing Anna
- Caden White (12/2023) playing Sven
- Kritika Ponangi (10/2023)
- Matilda Costello (10/2023)
- Myles Segal (10/2023)
- Alisha Golingi-Ong (7/2023)
- Alison Hartig (7/2023)

- Lily Lipscomb (7/2023)
- Ruby Blackshaw (7/2023)
- Zara Boldery playing young Anna (3/2023)
- Charlton Usher (6/2023)
- Mikhaila Miller (5/2023)
- Diana Castaneda (4/2023)
- Naomi Theos (4/2023)
- Olivia Brennan (4/2023)
- Sophie Kwa (4/2023)
- Georgia Logan (3/2023)
- Spencer Usher (3/2023)
- Yenuka Edirisingha Kodithuwakku (3/2023)
- Elsie Weatherstone (2/2023)
- Aston Usher (1/2023)
- Eva Boldery (1/2023)

WORKSHOPS

Workshops not only inspire student learning; they also provide valuable connections with industry professionals. This year our music students attended a fantastic Taiko Drums and Flutes of Japan workshop hosted by Anne and Toshi from Nexus Arts. This workshop was a chance for our musicians and Japanese students to come together and was a great way to introduce a new Performing Arts opportunity, Taiko Drumming.

Furthermore, our string players were treated to an enriching in-school workshop led by a quartet of professional string players, called the Felix Quartet, as part of the Australian Festival of Chamber Music. This workshop not only delved into various techniques but also offered a mesmerizing concert experience for our students, enriching their musical perspective.

Finally, as part of The Scene Project, students attended a valuable in-school workshop led by professional Queensland Theatre actor, Darcy Brown. Through a play-based approach, students were exposed to different ways of approaching the creative process and developed their ensemble skills.

COMPETITIONS

Our talented students participated in a number of competitions this year allowing them to push their limits, develop their experience and, ultimately, lead to continuous improvement and excellence.

Grammar Gold dance troupe took home the first-place trophy at the Townsville Dance Competition in Term 1. The group performed a routine, choreographed by Jacinda Laing, called 'Say Nothing' and they received glowing comments from the judges.

Our Woodwind Ensemble and Recorder Ensemble competed at the Australian Concert and Vocal Competition (ACVC) with the Recorder Ensemble were

awarded fourth place in the highly competitive Ensembles for School Students section of the competition.

Theatre Sports have become increasingly popular over the past few years, and we again had 2 teams of students participate in the Interschool Theatre Sports. The students had a fantastic time and learnt a lot from the experience.

We had a very successful year across the board at the Townsville Eisteddfod this year with the following groups placing:

- Maggiore Strings – 1st place Age 18 & Under Mixed Ensemble Group
- Guitar Orchestra – 2nd place Age 18 & Under String Orchestra B Grade Group
- Symphony Orchestra – 1st place Age 18 & Under Symphony Orchestra
- Recorder Quartet – 1st place Year 7 to Age 18 Instrumental Quartet/ Quintet
- Flute Quartet – HC Year 7 to Age 18 Instrumental Quartet/ Quintet
- Senior Girls Vocal – 1st place Modern Chorus, 3rd place Folk Singing Chorus
- Grammar Singers – 3rd place Senior Choral Championship
- Mezzo Choir – 1st place Middle School Choral Championship
- Grammar Gold – 1st place Secondary School Dance (for the 5th consecutive year!)
- Grammar Black – HC Secondary School Dance
- Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dr Mark Smith, was also awarded Most Outstanding Band or Orchestra of the Eisteddfod
- Caden White (12/2023), Lucinda Reid (9/2023), Lucy Jepson (10/2023), Aimee Segal (12/2023), Asha Patel (11/2023), Taylor West (12/2023), Annabelle Brown (8/2023), Priya Anand (8/2023), Amali Burch (11/2023), Grace Jepson (12/2023) and Isabella Wong (11/2023) for winning Special Awards at the Townsville Eisteddfod

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

We have also had many individual students achieve highly in Performing Arts this year with congratulations going to the following:

- Maxwell Hanks (11/2023), Eleanor Howard (10/2023), Anjali Rao (10/2023) and Aimee Segal (12/2023) for being selected to play with the Barrier Reef Orchestra for 2023
- Mynjeong Kim (8/2023) who received the Consul General of Poland Award for the Chopin Avenue International Piano Competition
- Yasmin Eaton (11/2023) and Winnie Shaw (10/2023) for being selected to be a part of TheatreiNQ's Culture Club
- Lucy Jepson (10/2023) who was the winner of the Royal Academy of Dance Shirley Treacy Bursary Advanced Level as well as Amali Burch (11/2023), Lainey Griffiths (6/2023), Mikhaila Miller (5/2023) who were shortlisted for this award
- Lucinda Reid (9/2023) and Flynn Hunter (11/2023) for being selected for the State Honours Ensemble Program
- Caden White (12/2023) and Maxwell Hanks (11/2023) for being selected for the Australian Honours Ensemble Program

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

SENIOR SCHOOL

Townsville Grammar School has for the past 135 years demonstrated a commitment to enabling students to demonstrate leadership. Students have a wide array of opportunities to serve the School and their peers. They can be a committee representative, captain, vice-captain, mentor, leader or actively involved in one of the hundreds of school activities offered in 2023. Students are given the opportunity to be part of a team, lead through example and to encourage others to be the best that they can be.

Leadership in a school is characterised by your influence on others, enabling others to achieve at their potential. The strength of leadership is demonstrated through the rapport fostered amongst the participants and the ability of the group to achieve the desired outcome.

Congratulations to our 2023 leaders on their support of peers and leading of the school community.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

The School Captains for 2023 were:

- Captains: Freya Boggild and Brian Gali
- Vice-Captains: Nils Cumming and Phillipa Dowling
- Boarding Captains: Skyla Corlis (Richmond) and Sangweon Yun (South Korea)
- Boarding Vice-Captains: Marthinus Farrell (Barcaldine) and Lilly Keats (Julia Creek)

SCHOOL PREFECTS

- Reg Alcock
- Alex Anthony (Rowland Vice-Captain)
- Elsa Baker
- Montana Beldan (Rowland House Captain)
- Sophie Bell (Rowland Vice-Captain)
- Sienna Caniato
- Justin Crane (Miller Vice-Captain)
- Paige Dreyer
- Huon Evans (Hodges Vice-Captain)
- Brian Hayes (Miller House Captain)
- Saachi Hira (Whight Vice-Captain)
- Grace Jepson
- Oliver Kelly (Whight House Captain)
- Isabella Linton (Miller House Captain)
- Charlie Maruff (Whight House Vice-Captain)
- Astin McClelland (Rowland House Captain)
- Jack Valentine (Hodges House Captain)
- Amy Vollmerhause
- Caden White

OTHER LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Madeline Connery (Hodges Vice-Captain)
- Georgia Gardiner (Rowland Vice-Captain)
- Alexandra Holt (Whight House Captain)
- Grace Ironside (Hodges House Captain)
- Mia McKinnon (Miller Vice-Captain)
- Scarlett Pountney (Miller Vice-Captain)

In 2023 there were seven Year 12 Senior School Committees where students supported Academics, Boarding, Junior School Liaison, School Spirit, Service and Wellbeing.

ACADEMIC LEADERS

- Daniel Dawood
- Marthinus Farrell
- Mia McKinnon
- Harper Muller
- Sabeer Nayaar
- Ashvindth Prabhakaran
- Thomas Rimmer
- Maher Zulfiquer

BOARDING LEADERS

- Victoria Coates
- Daniel Doggett- Ford
- Zali Downes
- Cody Scarsi
- Yumi Sung
- Jack Wilde

JUNIOR SCHOOL LIAISONS

- Finlay Barrett
- Arian Berra
- Max Blackshaw
- Skyla Corlis
- Daniel Doggett-Ford
- Kuba Leete
- Dempsie Moller
- Arjun Prakesh
- Audrey Richardson-Schulz

SCHOOL SPIRIT

- Reg Alcock
- Zali Downes
- Lily Keats
- Tara Kelly
- David Nugent
- Max Parsons
- Sam Scott
- Matthew Watson
- Caden White

SERVICE COMMITTEE

- Elsa Baker
- Elisa Jacob
- Awaani Jain
- Ponni Karthikeyen
- Alex Lane
- Liem Nguyen
- Matthew Tanious
- Juliette Tilson

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

- Isaac Canapi
- Sienna Caniato
- Phillipa Dowling
- Cody Scarsi
- Aimee Segal
- Karen Squair
- Shreya Urkede
- Evangelos Yiallourides

WELLBEING COMMITTEE

- Victoria Coates
- Riley Goddard
- Ethan Karlsbakk
- Yumi Sung
- Shreya Urkede
- Amy Vollmerhause

SPORTS LEADERS

- Maria Gundorova and Brian Hayes (Swimming Captains)
- Memphis Bell and Alexandra Holt (Cross Country Captains)
- Madeline Connery and Caden White (Athletics Captains)
- Astin McClelland (Rowing Captain)
- Justin Crane (Rugby Captain)
- Sasha Flegler (Netball Captain)

ARTS & ACTIVITIES LEADERS

- Grace Jepson and Caden White (Dance Captains)
- Phillipa Dowling and Saachi Hira (Debating Captains)
- Finlay Barrett, Dempsie Moller and Matthew Watson (Hospitality Leaders)
- Marthinus Farrell, Mia McKinnon and Aimee Segal (Whole School Music Captains)
- Caden White (Senior Choir Leader)
- Elsa Baker (Girls Choir Leader)
- Aimee Segal (Symphony Orchestra Leader)
- Joshua Poletto (Guitar Orchestra Leader)
- Amy Vollmerhause (Big Band Leader)
- Mia McKinnon (Celtic Strings Leader)
- Nils Cumming (Lezom Leader)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERS

- Harry Baxter and Ashmetha Prabhakaran (Hodges House Captains)
- Noah Boggild and Annalee Quirk (Hodges House Vice-Captains)
- Oliver Lukacs and Bridget Boyle (Miller House Captains)
- Quinn Pascoe and Chelsea Au (Miller House Vice-Captains)
- Jack Mellett and Harper MacInnes (Rowland House Captains)
- Dominic Eve and Livia Robertson (Rowland House Vice-Captains)
- Ben Parsons and Esther Harris (Whight House Captains)
- Gus Maruff and Grace King (Whight House Vice-Captains)

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC CAPTAINS

- Harry Baxter and Claire Zahn

In 2023 there were five Middle School Committees where Year 9 students worked alongside the Senior School Committees.

ACADEMICS

- Sophie Andrews
- Cate Cronin
- Ranu Khanna
- Noah Kuruvath
- Colin Lam
- Ashmetha Prabhakaran
- Advaita Sadhu
- Joshua Sawrey

SCHOOL SPIRIT

- Sienna Butterworth
- Sarah Douglas
- Joshua Dreyer
- Anna Dunn
- Ethan Lancuba
- Emma Locke
- Annalee Quirk
- Ky Russell

SERVICE

- Dylan Aalbersberg
- Noah Boggild
- Sophie Colston
- Cate Cronin
- Joshua Dreyer
- Lily Jamieson
- Chloe Langtree
- Jocelyn Leung
- Mahika Mandal

SOCIAL

- Aspyn Bell
- Saran Calleja
- Lucy Gabbert
- Esther Harris
- Tasman Paas
- Mahalia Poppi
- Lucy Stevens

WELLBEING

- Harry Baxter
- Michael Chan
- Layla Horsington
- Grace King
- Bella McGrath
- Benjamin Parsons
- Shreeya Ranabhat

JUNIOR SCHOOL

The leadership opportunities for our Year 6 students have continued to thrive in the Junior School with a greater sense of consistency in leadership emerging. This consistency has been exemplified by the roles of Campus Leader, House Leaders and Earlyact Leaders.

The Melior Exi program has continued to flourish, again seeing participation from the majority of our Year 6 students. This unique opportunity extends beyond the classroom, encompassing the elements of mountain biking, the Castle Hill Walk, abseiling at camp, an environmental component with a clean-up around Annandale and North Shore, and connections with the elderly from Good Shepherd. Notably, the mentorship provided by teachers and support staff has been instrumental in both the growth of the program and the students' acquisition of new skills.

The School commends the following students in attaining leaderships roles in 2023:

ANNANDALE

CAMPUS LEADERS

- Victoria McQueen
- Yannai Keret

MUSIC LEADERS

- Sophia Choi
- Jerry Fan

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEADERS

- Emily Adagra
- Jonas Tzanabetis

HODGES HOUSE LEADERS

- Alyssa Lindsay
- Lucas Connery

MILLER HOUSE LEADERS

- Margaret Gough
- Israel Kinobe

ROWLAND HOUSE LEADERS

- Poppi Bright
- Sawyer Wilkinson

WHIGHT HOUSE LEADERS

- Amelia Brown
- Oliver Dimmock

EARLYACT LEADERS

- Olive Costello
- Ruby McDonald
- Nainika Ponangi

NORTH SHORE

CAMPUS LEADERS

- Katherine Dowling
- Flynn Agnew

ROWLAND HOUSE LEADER

- Felix Derrett

MILLER HOUSE LEADER

- Noah Atkinson

HODGES HOUSE LEADER

- Jack Jackson

WHIGHT HOUSE LEADER

- Ed Bentley

EARLYACT LEADER

- Moira Beniwal

2023 PRIZE WINNERS – YEAR 12

EASTERBROOK TROPHY FOR GIRL SCHOOL CAPTAIN Freya Boggild

SENIORS OF 2006 PERPETUAL PRIZE FOR BOYS SCHOOL CAPTAIN Brian Gali

CARL MEYER MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL Amy Vollmerhause

DONALD PRIZE FOR CITIZENSHIP Montana Beldan

AMY BLANK MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR SERVICE: BOY AND GIRL. Aimee Segal Sabeer Nayyar

PRINCIPAL’S PRIZE FOR SERVICE Alex Anthony Paige Dreyer Grace Ironside Harper Muller Ella Wachenfeld Matthew Watson Evangelos Yiallourides

YANG FAMILY PUBLIC SPEAKING AWARD Saachi Hira

ARNOLD DUFFIELD SHIELD FOR SENIOR DEBATING Phillipa Dowling

EMMA JANE PEMBERTON AWARD Isaac English

SENIORS OF 2003 PERPETUAL PRIZE FOR SENIOR LEADERSHIP Marthinus Farrell

MARY AGNES DONALD PRIZE Freya Boggild Phillipa Dowling

CHELMSFORD CUP Brian Gali

PASTORAL CARE

North Ward Camps and Activities Week was held this year from Tuesday, 28 until Friday 31 March. The week saw several changes, with the introduction of differently, pastorally, focused 'Master Class' days at the start of the week and Year 10 Work Experience being officially extended to five days. Foci for the different year levels for the Masterclass Day included sleep hygiene, nutrition, social intelligence, self-defence and sexual health. Year 12 students were offered optional activities, across two sessions, to find new ways to practice self-care and wellbeing, in light of missing many opportunities over the past few years and missing their Year 9 Camp and Year 11 Leadership Conference. The Year 7 Camp, at the Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre, focused on developing physical and social learning and friendships and positive relationships for the cohort. Year 8 Camp, at Mungalli Falls Outdoor Education Centre, provided opportunities for students to develop independence, confidence, teamwork, leadership and problem-solving skills and to continue their social development. Year 9 Camp, a wellbeing retreat at Amaroo Resort on Magnetic Island, encouraged students to consider physical health and wellbeing factors. Year 11 students took part in a Leadership Conference from the Tuesday to Thursday, with keynote speakers and breakout sessions to challenge students to use their creativity and leadership skills. The Friday was a Leadership in Action Day, based on the challenging 'Amazing Race' concept. The Seniors worked on learning post-School skills, including completing a full First Aid Certificate.

Throughout the year, students across all three campuses continued to receive focused messaging about topical issues through the School's dedicated theme weeks in aiming to facilitate students' social and emotional learning. In Term 1, the theme weeks of Drug and Alcohol Safety and Bullying Awareness were delivered. Bullying Awareness Week focused on racial bullying and celebrating the School's multicultural diversity as an antidote to racism. A student led group planned and facilitated the School's inaugural Multicultural Day celebration, raising more than \$4,000 for the UNHCR, in support of refugees. Term 2's theme week was eSafety Awareness Week. This year, whilst revisiting online safety and security measures, students were also encouraged to be authentic and modest in their online interactions, to not over-exaggerate their realities to present a charade of who they are to garner affirmation and publicity. Term 3's first of two themed weeks was Road Safety Awareness, with Year 11 experiencing the RACQ Docudrama and Year 12s the Road Action and Planning (RAAP) program by Fire and Emergency Services Queensland. Mental Health Awareness Week 2023 challenged students to consider

changing how they think and feel about and then act on circumstances or events to improve their mental health and wellbeing. This focus on Mental Health Awareness was followed up with all four Houses joining Rotary Townsville Saints in their 'Lift the Lid on Mental Health Walk' at the start of Term 4. Also, in Term 4, during SunSmart Awareness Week, students were reminded of the importance of sun safety and wearing their School hats every time they are out of doors, in memory of Jillian Hardy who, in Year 11, 25 years ago, was diagnosed with metastasised melanoma in August and passed away on 5 October, mere months later. The School also continued to raise money for the Cancer Council with a free dress day, Jillian's Day, at the end of the week.

At Townsville Grammar School, we promote service learning and servant leadership. In Term3, students in Years 10-12 had two opportunities to engage with service learning and provide care and assistance to children with disabilities. In July, more than 90 Year 10 and 11 Grammar students partnered with the Townsville Community Learning Centre and attended the annual North Queensland Challenge Games. These students supported, encouraged and enabled children with disabilities to participate in their two-day regional sports carnival at the Sports Reserve. From 16-18 September, 63 Year 11 students and 40 Year 12 students participated in the School's sixth annual Sony Foundation Holiday Camp for Children with Disabilities. The Year 12s, having participated in 2022, volunteered in a revamped mentoring program whereby two distinct groups developed and facilitated activities or acted as photographers and scrapbookers of memories for the 29 Camper-Guests who attended Camp this year. Year 11 students, in pairs and threes, fulfilled the roles of Companions to the Campers, providing their camper with an event to remember whilst, at the same time, allowing the parents and family members of their guest two and a half days of respite from the often-continuous 24/7 care they provide for their children. Our Sony Camp continues to evolve to allow more of our students to practise servant leadership and provide such a precious opportunity for the camp attendees and their families.

In 2023, our Year 11 students continued to engage with Year 7s from their Houses through a regular Buddy Program focusing on getting to know them and becoming role-models and 'familiar faces' the younger students can turn to for help and a friendly smile.

A further dimension to Pastoral Care and Student Wellbeing and Development is the Defence School Mentor (DSM) program for students who are the children of Defence force personnel. The DSM program provides another layer of support to children and families who face the demands of regular posting-related change

of schools and family members being on deployment overseas. The DSM program aims to ease the impact of these Defence lifestyle factors and provide opportunities for Defence students to connect with other Defence students and to foster connection to the School through providing emotional and social support and active encouragement to become fully involved in the life of the School.

Throughout the year Defence students had the opportunity to attend many activities to ensure they felt welcomed into the School community and provided the School, through our Mentors, the opportunity to regularly check in with the students. In the lead up to April, and to honour our Defence community and Past Grammarians who served, rosemary was planted in a special garden located next to the newly renovated School House, in the historic Quad where ANZAC services have been held for many decades. Furthermore, many Defence students assisted in the making and selling of ANZAC Biscuits, with the funds raised going to support Mates4Mates an organisation actively changing the lives of current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members, and their families, impacted by service. Semester 2 saw students willingly volunteering their lunchtimes to assist in making poppies to contribute in commemorating Remembrance Day with hundreds of poppies being produced to form an appropriate display in the Quad.

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

The School Psychologist's role is to be the leading mental health expert at the School. They work at many different levels within the School and help children and young people to achieve academic success, psychological health and wellbeing and social and emotional wellbeing.

At Townsville Grammar School, students have access to free and confidential psychology appointments with our School Psychologist, Mrs Renee Crossley. As well as individual support, students also participate in Year level presentations on a variety of topics. In 2023, specific topics presented included; The impacts of stress on the developing brain, Recognising and managing stress symptoms, Healthy and unhealthy coping strategies, Reducing the stigma of mental health, Breaking the silence on bullying, The importance of social connection to our wellbeing, Unhelpful thinking styles, Improving communication, Preparing for job interviews, Stages of change and Setting personal goals to improve life satisfaction.

In relation to student wellbeing and mental health, we actively promote student wellbeing and encourage students to recognise when and how to access additional support at school. In addition to individual and group psychological appointments, we have an

established Wellbeing Centre where students and staff can relax and reset when experiencing difficult emotions of challenging circumstances. Research suggests that providing these safe spaces within schools provides students with a designated space for relaxation and stress relief and gives a sense of security, which in turn, can improve their academic performance, behaviour, social integration and overall wellbeing.

HOUSE REPORTS

HODGES HOUSE

The year began on a positive note, with Hodges House winning the Interhouse Swimming Carnival and enthusiastically supporting the Grammar Idol lip sync competition. Initiated and organised by the House Captains (Grace Ironside, Jack Valentine, Harry Baxter and Annalee Quirk) and Vice-Captains (Madeline Connery, Huon Evans, Noah Boggild and Ashmetha Prabhakaran), the inaugural Hodges Dog Walk to Queen's Gardens was also a great success. In Term 2, the Hodges Dog Walk was opened up to doggies of all houses, and it was lovely to see families mixing. Term 3 included an impressive Battle of the Bands performance from Hodges, dominance by the girls in the McKimmin Mile, and a BBQ breakfast, which was well attended. Hodges students have continued to support the Endeavour Foundation throughout the year, and Term 4 saw students also attend the Rotary 'Lift the Lid Walk' for mental health.

MILLER HOUSE

House spirit has continued to develop in Miller House under the guidance of their Head of House, Jacinda Laing, Assistant Head of House, Thomas Harvey and the Middle and Senior School Captains, Brian Hayes, Bella Linton, Justin Crane, Mia McKinnon, Scarlett Pountney (12/2023), Oliver Lukacs, Bridget Boyle, Quinn Pascoe and Chelsea Au (9/2023). Though Miller House have had a humbling experience regarding placements at Carnivals this year, they have learnt the valuable lesson of 'every participant matters,' bringing them closer together as a team and leaving them driven for years to come.

In Term 2, students and their families were invited to attend a picnic on the oval, accompanied by a slip'n'slide, to provide the opportunity to strengthen connections among Miller House. A senior breakfast in Term 3 created an environment where the current Year 12 students could offer advice to the Year 11s on leadership and academic success. The students of Miller House have continued to show community support through their House charity, Townsville Foster and Rehoming Animals and in events such as the 'Lift the Lid' walk, where they came together to support a passionate cause: Youth Mental Health.

ROWLAND HOUSE

In 2023, we have witnessed an exceptional level of enthusiasm within Rowland House, characterised by the dedicated leadership of our Senior and Middle School Captains: Montana Beldan and Astin McClelland (12/2023), who served as Senior Captains; Georgia Gardiner, Sophie Bell, and Alexander Anthony (12/2023), who fulfilled the roles of Senior Vice Captains; and Jack Mellett and Harper MacInnes (9/2023), who admirably led as Middle School Captains, alongside Liv Robertson and Dominic Eve (9/2023), who capably assumed the positions of Middle School Vice Captains.

During Term 2, Rowland House hosted its social event, the Rowland House Slip n Slide, which was met with widespread enjoyment and participation. At the conclusion of Term 2 and throughout Term 3, Rowland House celebrated notable victories in both the Battle of the Bands and the Athletics Carnival, marking their first Carnival win in four years. The year finished with Rowland House channeling its unwavering enthusiasm towards a meaningful cause, exemplified by active participation in the Strand Cleanup initiative and the Rotary 'Lift the Lid Walk'.

WHIGHT HOUSE

2023 commenced very well for Whight House and their Middle and Senior School Captains and Vice Captains, respectively: Esther Harris, Benjamin Parsons, Grace King, Gus Maruff (9/2023), Alexandra Holt, Oliver Kelly, Saachi Hira and Charlie Maruff (12/2023).

In Term 2, aside from winning House Cross Country and a second-placing in the Athletics Carnival, the Captains hosted a very successful Pool Party. In Term 3, alongside a spirited performance in the Battle of the Bands and a win in the Inter-House Cricket Competition, Whight House students had a movie night. In Term 4, Whight House held a well-received farewell barbeque for their Seniors and embraced the opportunity to come together for a good cause and rallied around the Rotary 'Lift the Lid Walk'.

Whight House capped off a wonderful year by winning the Grimsey Cup for Champion Girls House, the Duffin Shield for Champion Boys House and the Robertson Shield as Overall House Champions for the Year.

YEAR 7 REPORT

This year saw another influx of Year 7 students walk through the Townsville Grammar School gates to begin their transition into secondary school. This transition provides many new experiences, opportunities and challenges which the 2023 cohort dealt with confidently and optimistically.

Initially in Term 1, to assist with their integration and development of friendships, our Pastoral Care program focused on the character strengths of resilience

and positive relationships. Our students engaged in activities within their Form lessons which saw them begin to develop organisational skills to assist them with the changing expectations of Year 7 and then culminated in our Year 7 Camp where students were organised into smaller groups and challenged to step outside their comfort zone by participating in a range of different experiences at the Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre. By the end of the term it was wonderful to see new friendships formed and the beginning of a deep sense of connection within not only their form classes but also the greater year group.

These new connections, and for some a growing sense of confidence, then blossomed over the course of the year and was the catalyst for engaging classrooms where learning was paramount. After receiving their interim reports, the Year 7 Form teachers worked closely with the students to set their own learning goals and discuss strategies with them to ensure they were able to take meaningful steps to achieving their goals. Their growing sense of maturity and connection to the Grammar community encouraged our students to prioritise their learning and celebrate their own successes. As the year progressed, it was encouraging to see the students demonstrate ownership and pride in their learning journey.

At the end of Term 3, 40 excited Year 7 students visited our nation's capital, Canberra, where they were kept very busy for four days. The students had the opportunity to debate a bill with amendments at Parliament House as well as measure their athleticism at the Australian Institute of Sport. The students were also privileged to pay their respects at the Australian War Memorial and put the knowledge they had learned to the test at Questacon. To ensure students were provided with a full experience of Canberra, the students were also involved in a range of other activities including an early morning bike ride around Lake Burley-Griffin, a visit to the National Arboretum, and were given a chance to engage with other young Grammarians when Canberra Grammar School hosted the touring group for lunch. This tour was an excellent opportunity for students to develop an appreciation for our nation and garner a greater understanding of the role Australia's capital plays in the lives of all Australians.

As the Year 7s move towards the next step of their secondary school journey, it is comforting to know, they will leave with confidence and a better understanding of the path ahead of them. They have forged new friendships, faced challenges with adversity, reflected on their own behaviours. Overwhelmingly, they have realised the importance of the whole Townsville Grammar School community in their development as both learners and people.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

It is with gratitude and pride that we note the ongoing strength of enrolments at both Annandale and North Shore campuses, particularly in a such a challenging economic environment. Our Grammar families truly understand the value of the investment that they are making on a daily basis.

Following the successful NSSAB accreditation in 2022 for Years 4-6 at the North Shore Campus, 2023 has seen a continuation of our collective efforts towards academic excellence. Our teaching staff's dedication and diligence in refining teaching and learning programs have led to a solid foundation for our students' holistic development, fostering a strong sense of accomplishment and pride.

In the pursuit of providing the highest quality education, teachers have embraced the challenges of familiarising themselves with Australian Curriculum Version 9. This year, the groundwork was laid for a smooth transition, particularly in the subject areas of Mathematics and English.

Our commitment to nurturing literacy excellence remains steadfast in the Junior School. This year, significant strides were taken in advancing literacy education with the introduction of the Promoting Literacy Development (PLD) program. The training of our Prep – Year 2 teachers has been an engaging experience, fueling our excitement for its implementation with our students in 2024.

In our continuous efforts to refine our educational environment, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our Behaviour Management policies and practices across the Junior School. Valuing the insights and expertise of our dedicated staff, we conducted surveys to gather perspectives on the current policy and practices. These valuable inputs have shed light on areas of professional learning for staff, as well as a renewed focus on fostering greater consistency in the use of language across all interactions with our students. As a result, we are dedicated to implementing necessary professional development initiatives to ensure that our campuses are well equipped to create a supportive and nurturing environment for our students. Plans to finalise an updated Behaviour Management policy by 2024 is a focus for our Junior School Leadership Team.

Introducing a new and exciting initiative for 2023, we have forged a meaningful connection with The Scots College in Sydney, collaborating closely with TGS. This partnership has given rise to a dynamic leadership exchange program, fostering valuable insights and learning experiences for both Schools. This year's exchange involved our Head of Campus – Annandale, Chris Gray, spending time in Sydney, immersing himself in the leadership practices at Scots. Likewise, their Year 5 Co-ordinator had the invaluable opportunity to engage in a similar experience in Townsville at TGS. We look forward to this opportunity continuing in 2024.

The spirit of collaboration continued to flourish as we reinforced the important connections between our North Shore and Annandale Campuses. Our concerted efforts to create a seamless bridge between the campuses manifested in joint curriculum initiatives, shared events and spirited participation in sporting carnivals, club sport, strings concerts, Pro Diligentia Ceremonies, Writing Competition Assemblies to mention but a few. These initiatives not only nurture unity, but also enhance the sense of belonging within our broader school community.

As we navigate the path of growth, we hold strongly to the unique strengths that define each campus. Celebrating diversity has remained an integral part of our philosophy, empowering students to embrace their individuality and showcasing their exceptional talents. This philosophy has created a vibrant, inclusive atmosphere that continues to enrich our school community.

Undoubtedly, one of the standout events that captured the heart of our TGS community in 2023 was the Black and Gold Fair at the Annandale Campus. The vibrant celebration brought together students, families and friends, in an atmosphere of camaraderie and festivity. It was heartening to witness the collective efforts that went into making this event a resounding success, reinforcing the spirit of togetherness that makes TGS truly exceptional. Through the hard work and efforts by all, the School managed to raise a creditable \$20,000. This will be well used for school resources to benefit the students.

POSITIVE EDUCATION

A cornerstone of our approach to pastoral care is Positive Education. Across the Junior School, this philosophy has again played a pivotal role in nurturing the well-being and growth of our students. Our focus on the 24-character strengths has not only been integrated into classroom practices but also in acknowledging students during our weekly Monday assemblies. These moments of recognition serve as a powerful testament to our commitment to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment.

The annual Random Acts of Kindness challenge, which continued over the June/July holiday period, once again garnered immense popularity. Witnessing students embrace the challenge and spread positivity reinforces the strong values that defines our school community.

Mental Health Awareness Week was also celebrated across TGS in Week 8, Term 3. This involved many discussions and activities happening in classes, assemblies, helping with a greater focus on overall well-being and mental health.

Our commitment to holistic student development is further evident through initiatives such as the Leaders Life talks for Year 6 students. These talks provide valuable life skills and insights, with an integration of the character strengths relevant to themselves equipping our students for the journey ahead.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTRE

Our two Early Education Centres are thriving, with Annandale celebrating its fifteenth year and North Shore its eighth year of providing a wonderful Pre-Prep program. Both Centres are consistently fully booked with waitlists and enrolments are already looking very healthy for 2024.

The EEC philosophy is built around respectful relationships, partnerships with families, responsive educators, inclusion and valuing the learning environment.

The reputation of our Early Education program is very positive in the wider community where families return with their younger children and many other families enquire to enrol a couple of years in advance. Our Director and teachers are passionate and knowledgeable about the Pre-Prep age group and offer a child-centred, interest based, stimulating and challenging program which celebrates the here and the now and offers a thorough and supportive transition to Prep later in the year.

JUNIOR SCHOOL WRITING COMPETITION

The Junior School Writing Competition showcased the creative and persuasive writing talents of all students in Years 3 to 6. This annual event is now in its tenth year and, combined with our 'Big Write' program, has had a positive impact on the writing levels in the School. Along with the acknowledgment of Credit, Distinction and High Distinction recipients, the top girl and boy in each year level receives the Colin Bingham Medal.

- Year 3: Driti Myla & Yardenn Keret
- Year 4: Kate John & Tien Yew Chan
- Year 5: Alexandra Reddie & Zach Langtree
- Year 6: Tien Ern Chan & Yannai Keret

ICAS

As in past years, we have had a strong number of our Year 3 to 6 students opt-in to challenge themselves in the various ICAS Assessments available through the University of NSW. This year saw students at both campuses participate in four of the assessments offered: English, Science, Mathematics and Writing.

- Science: 39 students – 1 High Distinction, 8 Distinctions and 12 Credits
- English: 42 students – 1 High Distinction, 5 Distinctions and 11 Credits
- Mathematics: 47 students – 2 High Distinction, 3 Distinctions and 16 Credits
- Writing: 34 students – Results unavailable at this stage

JUNIOR SCHOOL PUBLIC SPEAKING

After a number of weeks of preparation and presentations within their individual classes, those students judged by their teachers to be the best in their class, came together at the Annandale Campus to compete for year level success in front of a highly appreciative audience.

All students competing on the night gave their best and the high level of skill and content was impressive. As has become the tradition, we truly appreciated the students from the Senior School attending the event to chair the various rooms competently and deal commendably with the very difficult task of adjudicating the speeches.

AWARD	YEAR 4
First Place	Nadana Raguharan
Second Place	Nyla Johnson
Third Place	Shreyansh Pandey
Highly Commended	Ruby Campbell Lucinda Shonhan

After an eight-year hiatus, the TGS Interschool Public Speaking Competition returned to the calendar with students from three other schools joining Grammar students for this event. The evening saw two rooms in operation, with six students competing in the Year 6 room and nine in the Year 4 and Year 5 room. It was an enjoyable night with Margaret Gough (6/2023) taking first place in Year 6 and Grammar students making a clean sweep in the Year 4 and Year 5 room with Henry White, Zach Langtree (5/2023) and Nadana Raguharan (4/2023), placing first to third respectively.

CHESS

Chess continues to play a strong part in the culture of our Junior School, with Chess Clubs running on both Junior School campuses. This year we participated in all three rounds of the NQ District chess competition, sending eight teams of four students to each event. The School produced some very commendable team and individual results, with players continuing to build their knowledge and skill of the game. For the second consecutive year, we won the final round and earnt entry into the State Finals but were sadly unable to travel to Brisbane to compete. Congratulations to Shreyansh Pandey (4/2023), Henry Pai, Anshu Pattnaik and Jai Nigam (5/2023) for these impressive results.

JUNIOR SCHOOL EARLYACT GROUP

2023 has been another year where the Junior School Earlyact Group has spent time looking to support the wider community. We continued our support of World Families Inc. and the work they do to enhance the opportunities for children in developing countries. In particular, we continued to support Temesgen Arage, from Ethiopia.

'Grammar Glows Bright' free dress day and the 'World of Fiction' disco were fun-filled activities that saw the Junior School students raise \$1350 for Family Emergency Accommodation Townsville and \$1900 for Ronald MacDonald House, NQ. A Sno Cone sale also raised much appreciated funds in support of the annual Sony Camp. Families also contributed much-needed food items as part of the annual FoodBank appeal. This food is distributed locally to families in need.

YEAR 5	YEAR 6
Henry White	Margaret Gough
Zach Langtree	Anish Srivastava
Anshu Pattnaik	Victoria McQueen
Srihan Kamasani Harrison Whiting	Kathryn Dowling Felix Derrett

MATHS OLYMPIAD

During 2023, Year 5 and 6 students once again had the opportunity to compete in the International Mathematics Olympiad Competition. Competitors undertook four assessments in which they put their problem-solving skills to the test, competing against students in both Australia and New Zealand. While the competitions were undertaken individually, the students prepared by working through previous years' papers and learning about a variety of problem-solving techniques. During these preparation sessions, students enthusiastically shared their strategies and solutions with each other and the group. All competitors are to be commended on their positive attitude and persistence in working through high-level problems beyond what they would normally encounter in the classroom.

FRENCH

French has continued to grow in popularity as a subject for many students on both the Annandale and North Shore Campus during 2023.

The young learners from Prep to Year 6 have been totally immersed in their lessons with the aim of the program being for students to be able to introduce themselves and their family as well as having the basic skills to communicate in the classroom environment.

In the classroom, students enjoyed the topic approach to language learning which saw each term take on a different focus such as ordering items at a café, giving directions, buying clothes and fruit and vegetables, talking about themselves and their family members and pets. Students have gone from strength to strength as they continued their recital of their termly poem task which saw them learn an authentic French poem, often off by heart, with correct pronunciation and English translation. Songs and games also formed a strong part of all lessons, particularly in the younger years.

OPTI-MINDS REPORT

Optiminds is an inclusive team challenge that aims to develop skills of enterprise and time management, along with the discipline to work collaboratively within a challenging and demanding environment. Teams have seven weeks to work on an open-ended task which is presented to judges as a short play within a ten-minute timeframe. They also discuss and produce a solution to

an unseen, spontaneous challenge within a ten-minute window. A team of seven students from Townsville Grammar School participated in this year’s challenge.

The theme for 2023 was ‘Voicing Up’, with the team opting for the Language and Literature challenge. Students had to select a character or group from an existing text that, at some point in the narrative, does not have a voice. They had to create a speech to be delivered by the character or group designed to convince the others that they should be listened to and write a new ending for the text that shows what happens as a result of the speech.

The team from Grammar produced an original and thoughtful presentation based on The Diary of Anne Frank. They portrayed the discovery and arrest of Anne and her father Otto, and her subsequent incarceration in the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp. During her imprisonment, Anne delivered a strong and impassioned speech in which she demands a voice for her people, irrespective of their religious beliefs.

The challenge concluded with a long day of intense competition at James Cook University. Teams from as far afield as Charters Towers and Home Hill not only presented their challenge solutions to a panel of judges, but also undertook a spontaneous challenge in which they had to devise an original and creative newspaper report based upon a previously unseen picture. The day concluded with an awards ceremony. Unfortunately, the team were not placed in the top three entries, although they did receive a certificate marking 31 years of continuous participation in Optiminds, a record amongst schools in Townsville.

SPORT

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday, 8 March our Interschool Swimming team of 42 swimmers finished first in the ‘A Schools’ Carnival, being crowned the Champion Swimming School for 2023. All squad members performed to the best of their ability, excelling in a number of races and represented Grammar proudly.

North Queensland Swimming Trials

- 10 Years Girls – Perri Grant (5/2023)
- 10 Years Boys – Henry White (5/2023)
- 11 Years Boys – Eloan de Vine (6/2023)

INTERSCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

On Tuesday, 23 May the Townsville Grammar School Cross Country team competed at the Interschool Cross Country Carnival at Bicentennial Park. Twenty nine runners represented the School on a great afternoon for running with many students pushing themselves

out of their comfort zones to run personal best times. Grammar had three students finishing in the top ten in their respective age groups which qualified them for the Townsville District Team to then attend the North Queensland Trials.

NORTH QUEENSLAND CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS

- 10 Years Girls – Perri Grant (5/2023)
- 12 Years Girls – Bella Li (6/2023)
- 12 Years Boys – Filip Rajnoch (6/2023)

INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

On Thursday, 10 August the Junior School Athletics team competed in the Interschool Athletics Carnival. Townsville Grammar School entered a team of 83 students competing in sprint races, relays, long jump, high jump, shot put and 800m. All students performed to the best of their ability and were all representing our School in a very positive manner. Overall, Townsville Grammar finished third, an improvement on last year. All students are to be congratulated on their effort on the day of competition and for their commitment to extra training sessions before, during and after school hours.

North Queensland Athletics Trials

- 10yrs High Jump – Anshi Tiwari (5/2023)
- 11yrs 200m – Xavier Abel (6/2023)
- 12yrs 800m – Yannai Keret (6/2023)

TRI-REPRESENTATIVE

Tri-Representative medallists are students who represented Townsville Grammar in all three Interschool Carnivals: Swimming, Cross Country, Athletics.

- Bailey Hayes (4/2023)
- Perri Grant (5/2023)
- Alexandra Reddie (5/2023)
- Ella Gilbert (5/2023)
- Royston Barker (5/2023)
- Tyler Solari (5/2023)
- Amelia Brown (6/2023)
- Bella Li (6/2023)
- Amy Herdegen (6/2023)
- Filip Rajnoch (6/2023)
- Sawyer Wilkinson (6/2023)
- Rishon Vimallesh (6/2023)
- Sportswoman of the Year
- Amelia Brown (6/2023)

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

Filip Rajnoch (6/2023)

SPORTS TOUR

The Junior School Sports Tour travelled to the Gold Coast on Wednesday, 7 June and returned Saturday, 10 June. Our travelling netball and rugby union teams represented Grammar in a very positive light, displaying outstanding sportsmanship on all occasions.

The touring party took part in two Gala Days held at All Saints Anglican College: Gretel Tippet Netball Trophy and the DNK Cup for rugby. Our touring Rugby side won the DNK Cup for the first time, defeating King’s Christian College 7-0 in a tight Final. Amelia Brown (6/2023) was named player of the tournament. On the third day, our netballers and rugby players competed in friendly matches against Emmanuel College.

PREP – YEAR 2 SPORTS CARNIVAL

On Friday, 11 August the Prep to Year 2 students participated in their Sports Carnival with a focus on House Spirit. Whilst Prep students wore their gold PE uniform, Years 1 and 2 students wore their House shirts in an effort to cultivate a greater emphasis and passion for students’ Houses, continuing on from last year. This should help to prepare them for the many House-based Carnivals they will experience in Years 3 to 6.

Prep to Year 2 students took part in a variety of track and field events; shot put, discus, javelin and high jump. The Sports Carnival was held on The Green, adjacent to the North Shore Campus, with students from both campuses having morning tea together, before returning to their respective campus. A special mention must go to our North Shore student leaders who led each station, guiding our sporting stars of the future through various sports.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Townsville Grammar School entered teams in all three seasons of Interschool Sport from both Junior School campuses. Teams took part in hockey, netball, rugby league, touch football, soccer, tennis, basketball and tee ball.

Interschool Netball – Girls Champions

Interschool Netball – Mixed Champions

NQ NETBALL CUP

Friday, 31 March saw the School enter a netball team in the annual NQ Netball Cup held at the Murray Sporting Complex. The team displayed the usual Grammar Grit we have come to expect from our sporting teams, winning three out of five matches to narrowly miss out on advancing to the Grand Final.

BLACKHAWKS CHALLENGE

Held on Wednesday, 6 September, the Blackhawks Challenge was an exciting, fast-paced gala day of rugby league for a select group of U10 students. Townsville Grammar School competed well all day, finishing second in the Pool stages. The team went down in the semi-final. However, everyone was proud of their effort, considering it was the first time we have entered the competition.

PERFORMING ARTS

MUSIC

The Junior School Music Co-ordinator, Charlene Moskovitch, joined the staff at the beginning of the year and has had a wonderful start leading the Junior School Music Program with a seamless changeover from Fiona Burnett.

The abundance of musical talent within our Junior School schools is clearly evident. The instrumental ensembles and choirs have grown and continue to thrive and attract steady membership across both the Annandale and North Shore Campuses.

The number of students receiving private instrumental tuition has grown across both Junior School campuses, and subsequently so has our need for tutors. We currently have 11 tutors at the Junior School. Students are given opportunities on both campuses to perform at weekly Assemblies as well as other events during the year and for their peers during class music lessons.

The Soirees each term have been well attended. In Term 1 and Term 2 they were both held in the Annandale Plaza, while in Term 3, which was for students in Prep to Year 2, the Soiree was held at North Shore. These enjoyable events took place in the Music Room in which we managed to fit around 80 people. The soirees are a wonderful opportunity for students across all year levels to perform for family and friends as they provide incentive to polish and showcase their skills, repertoire and musicality.

The Minors’ Choir consists of students in Years 1 to 3. This year, we have had 55 members in the choir at the Annandale Campus and 38 members at the North Shore Campus with all our young vocalists being a joy to listen to. The Minors’ Choir from Annandale has performed at Grandparents and Special Friends Day, Grammar Showcase, the Townsville Eisteddfod and the Spring Concert Art Show, while our young singers at North Shore have performed at Assembly and the Spring Concert Art Show.

The Majors Choir consists of students in Years 4 to 6. While the Annandale Majors’ Choir is double the size of the North Shore Majors’ Choir, both have developed a good repertoire of songs and attend rehearsals with

enthusiasm. The Annandale Majors' Choir has sung at Assembly and both Annandale and North Shore Majors' Choirs have sung at Grandparents and Special Friends Day and the Spring Concert Art Show. The two choirs combined and performed fabulously at the Grammar Showcase after having only one run through together prior to the event. The Annandale Majors' Choir sang two songs at the Townsville Eisteddfod, one by Australian composer Paul Jarman, and the other a two-part song, while the North Shore Majors' choir sang a beautiful song in unison. Thanks is extended to Rachel Cairns who conducted both Majors' Choirs at the Eisteddfod.

The Year 3 String Program has gone from strength to strength this year with students showing a great interest in their respective instruments and a range of songs being learnt. In Year 3 this year, we had 51 students playing Violin, 10 playing Viola, 16 playing Cello, and 1 playing Double Bass. The Semester 1 Strings Concert was held at North Shore and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Students are working towards the Semester 2 concert which will be held at Annandale. New talent continues to emerge and I hope many of these students will continue with private string tuition in the future.

DRAMA & DANCE

This year, Drama and Dance has been action packed, with multiple performances and engaging learning opportunities for students. Students at both the Annandale and North Shore Campuses thoroughly enjoyed their weekly Drama and Dance lessons. It has been a wonderful opportunity for creative individuals to shine, whilst building confidence and performance skills. Drama and Dance also allows those quiet and shy students a chance to develop, grow and acquire skills and tools to help them in their future life. Students are working on improving vocabulary, creativity and language skills. They are enhancing voice and speech quality by refining tone, dictation and inflection. Students have focused on units of study ranging from Improvisation, Melodrama, Shakespeare, Choral Speaking, Mime, Disco Dancing, Choreography Skills, Circus Skills and have worked collaboratively to create dramatic group performances.

A particular highlight for families this year was the Black and Gold Fair in Term 3. All students from Pre-Prep to Year 6 performed a cohort performance in relation to the Broadway Theme. Students were absolutely ecstatic to perform routines chosen from Broadway Shows, Mamma Mia, Trolls, Encanto, Frozen, Sing, Matilda, Kung Fu Panda, Annie, The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Moana, Grease, High School Musical and The Greatest Showman.

The Townsville Eisteddfod is always an highly anticipated and exciting event which students look forward to each year. This year, all students in Year 3 to 6 performed Choral Speaking performances. Students worked

collectively as a team to create, develop and perform poems collaboratively as a class. For some students, this will be their only experience in their schooling where they will compete at an Eisteddfod. From discussions with past students, this is always a memory that many cherish and provides students with life-long skills that assist them with public speaking or performing in the future.

Co-Curricular Dance has continued to grow in demand across the Junior School campuses. There is now a Junior Troupe, Senior Troupe and Dance Club Group at each campus. The four Dance Troupes across both Annandale and North Shore Campuses have performed at numerous events throughout the year from Open Day, Grandparents and Special Friends' Day, Cultural Awards, Black and Gold Fair, Spring Art Shows, Townsville Eisteddfod and the Talent Show. The Junior Troupes from both campuses are combining to perform a jazz performance called "Splish Splash". The North Shore Senior Troupe performed a circus themed jazz performance, and the Annandale Senior Troupe performed a contemporary performance called, "Intimidation" which is based on the theme of anti-bullying.

ART CLUB

The Junior School Art Clubs are an enriching co-curricular experience for children in Years 1 to 6. Divided into three segments, Mini Art Club (Years 1 & 2), Midi Art Club (Years 3 & 4), and Maxi Art Club (Years 5 & 6), these clubs empower children to engage in a realm of creative endeavours and explore diverse mediums and techniques.

This year's activities in the Maxi Art Club provided children with the opportunity to explore various textural elements. They engaged in using paint mediums on both canvas and foil to create intriguing effects. The children also delved into the realm of printmaking and ventured into the art of mosaic-making using glass tiles. The dynamic Maxi Art Club wasn't short of projects, culminating in the crafting of an expansive papier-mâché sculpture in the form of a tree, which now graces the Library.

Meanwhile, the Midi Art Club ventured into crafting leaf bowls using air-dry clay, embracing the tactile experience of working with this medium. They also took pleasure in the creative chaos that papier-mâché brings, resulting in exquisite watercolour cherry blossom artworks.

Among the Mini Art Club's endeavours, they had a delightful time envisioning and crafting sizable green frog sculptures. Their creative journey also involved a study of renowned artists, Laural Burch and Anna Blaten, whose styles inspired the young artists to produce their own unique pieces reflecting these influences.

LIBRARY

In 2023, we welcomed Sarah Hodgson and her team of Catrina Camakaris and Jenny Westkamp (Teacher Aide) to the Library Team across both the Annandale and North Shore campuses. The Junior School libraries at the Annandale and North Shore campuses are at the heart of our School community. This year, the libraries have continued to be a place that fosters a love of learning, critical thinking, a sense of belonging, and a love for literature and knowledge.

2023 has seen the introduction of a library scope and sequence of learning across Prep to Year 6. This has

involved the structuring of learning experiences to build mastery of vital library and reading skills. From early years, the emphasis is placed not just on reading for academic excellence, but also on nurturing a profound love for reading for pleasure. The libraries have become oases where students discover the magic of literature, fostering a lifelong passion for books. Simultaneously, there is a strong focus on information literacy, equipping students with the critical tools to evaluate sources, navigate the digital landscape and become discerning consumers of information.

MARKETING

In 2023, the focus has very much moved into the digital sphere with a significant ongoing digital campaign underpinning the School's marketing activities and delivering our message into wider markets. The marketing positioning has continued with 'The Grammar Difference' in pushing the Grammar brand as a particular style of education that is unique to North Queensland.

Engagement continues to be a focus area for Marketing, with a Community Engagement Plan identifying key stakeholder groups and charting how the School interacts with each. School House is providing an opportunity

for stakeholder and community groups to connect with the School, with several functions held this year and an overall developing interest in the history of the building and the school.

The Townsville Grammar School brand has continued to strengthen in 2023, as evidenced by enrolment enquiries and engagement activity. All five social media channels managed by the School have increased in followers, reach and engagement, signifying that our audiences and stakeholder groups are actively engaged with the School.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE

This year has seen a continued focus on IT security and the protection of School information and data. Protection technologies are evolving from signature-based detection to active threat detection and monitoring.

Demand for Internet continues to grow throughout all campuses, as the use of online resources in teaching grows. The primary Internet and intercampus links have all been upgraded with substantial speed and capacity increases, as well as a change in provider to allow a more cost-effective solution. Further speed and capacity increases are possible in the future as demand requires it. The need for data quotas has gone, removing the need for students to monitor and manage their data usage.

Modern IT and Audio-Visual facilities in the newly renovated School House have been installed and commissioned, including the technology in the Board Room and the main function room on each level. Both function rooms now have wireless microphones, background music facilities, and large TV screens for projection, with the lower floor screen being height

adjustable to support large groups and viewing from further away in the room. This year has seen external use of this equipment including remote video presenters and large community groups.

SMART Board upgrades have continued, replacing some of the remaining projector based boards and screens in some classrooms at Annandale. This continues the ongoing phased change over from projector-based boards to TV style boards.

Live streaming of school events has continued after the easing of COVID restrictions, which has provided access to events in situations where distance or illness prevents physical attendance. Of particular note has been the live streaming of the Year 12 Formal arrivals and various award ceremonies.

Regular replacements of servers, desktops and laptops has taken place in line with established asset lifecycle processes. Routine updates to software, including Windows and Office, have been implemented.

PARENTS NETWORK

This year the TGS Parent Network oversaw a full calendar of events. This year also was the final for the Terrific Trio of executive team members, Dr Karen Fortier, Anneli Haipola and Kate Taylor. As a trio these ladies have been an incredible team who have led by example and who have ensured that every Carnival event is fully catered and every dollar of return has been thoughtfully allocated to School needs, and we want to acknowledge them for their years of voluntary service to the TGS community.

As a community group, the Parents Network was also thrilled to support the Black & Gold events this year. The Parents Network Black & Gold Mothers’ Day lunch on 12 May was a sellout success again. Tressa Reddie again agreed to be the convenor for this event and we would like to thank Tressa Reddie and her very capable team of helpers. Next came the Trivia Night on the 3 June with a “Back to the ’90s” theme. Held in the Gym at the North Ward campus this was an evening of laughs and shocks as the costumes kept coming. The success of the evening can be attributed to the hard work of the organising team of Karen Fortier, Roanne Boldery and Hayley Sutton who brought the

PAST GRAMMARIANS

2023 has seen our Past Grammarians Association go from strength to strength as we continue to work toward the engagement of the Past Grammarians community, in this, our School’s 135th anniversary.

This year we hosted several Past Grammarians events including the highly successful Brisbane Catch-Up on Saturday, 27 May, attended by Past Grammarians from 1953-2022.

We also hosted the first in what we hope will be a series of Business Breakfasts in the newly restored School House. We welcomed the CEO of the North Queensland Cowboys, Mr Jeff Reibel, as our guest speaker. Jeff spoke beautifully about the correlation between Townsville Grammar School’s motto, Bonus Intra Melior Exi – Enter Good, Exit Better – and the mission of the North Queensland Cowboys and their Cowboys House program.

Our 2023 Reunion was another wonderful occasion where we welcomed Past Grammarians from across the decades, this year with a special focus on the graduating classes of years ending in 3. This year we presented former TGS staff member, Brian (BC) Christensen with an Honorary Life Membership. Brian was a teacher at TGS from 1973-2007 and has remained enthusiastically engaged with the School and the Past Grammarians Association. BC joins the late William (Bill) Muller and

myriad of details together. The next event was the biennial Parent Network Black & Gold Carnival, held at the Annandale campus on 19 August, with the theme of “Broadway”. Head of Junior School, Martin Tait, led a huge number of volunteers to feed and entertain the thousands of visitors who arrived at the campus that night. Supporting the children’s performances and the sideshow alley were a dedicated troupe of volunteer parents who ensured that there were food and beverages for sale as well as other fun activities such as a Chocolate Chuck and footy throws, as well as some take home toys. The volunteer brigade were also supported by students from the North Ward campus, who filled the gaps.

Finally, the social calendar ended with the Parent Network Black & Gold Fathers’ Day lunch on 1 September where former Cowboy Ray Thompson was the guest speaker and provided much food for thought alongside a delicious lunch. Our heartfelt thanks to Tressa Reddie again for ensuring that every father who attended had a wonderful afternoon.

Judge Stuart Durward as former recipients of Honorary Life Memberships of the Past Grammarians Association.

The Past Grammarians Association committee supported several of the School’s events in 2023, including the North Ward Campus Open Day, the ANZAC service, and the Rugby@Home day as part of the Reunion weekend. We held a pizza lunch for the Year 12s on their final day of school (pre-exams) to welcome them to the Past Grammarians Association. As President of the Association I attended the Year 12 Graduation, and the Association gifted each graduate with a Past Grammarian pin and other memorabilia, in the spirit of welcoming them as the newest group of Past Grammarians.

This year the Association welcomed two new members to the committee, Karl Geiger (2015) and Gemma Vollmerhause (2017), and they are thanked for their energy and contribution.

This year there were two main projects - the publication of a book of essays by William (Bill) Muller, and funding toward the development of the TGS Museum in the newly restored School House, both fitting tributes to our 135th anniversary.

**JOHN SHORT PRESIDENT
- PAST GRAMMARIANS ASSOCIATION**

STAFF MOVEMENT

STAFF NEW TO TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR 2023

- Pablo Acuna as a Bus Driver
- Roop Barring as Geography and Maths Teacher
- Kayla Bartram as a Teacher Aide
- Chloe Beauchamp as a Primary Teacher
- Sarah Bonell-Brown as a French Teacher
- Rebecca Borquin as a Year 7 Teacher
- Lachlan Brush as a Kitchen Hand
- Eva Cabuhat as a Cleaner
- Arlene Carty as a Primary Teacher
- Tenille Chilton as a Cleaner
- Joel Connolly as a Primary Teacher
- Benjamin Cormick as a Business and Humanities and IT Teacher
- Leonie De Lai as a Primary Teacher
- Tayla Donnell-Wales as a Teacher Aide
- Samuel Erskine as a Bus Driver
- Marilyn Fajardo as a Cleaner
- Daniel Fox as Director of Boarding
- Gregory Fuchs as a Cleaner
- Patricia Grant as a Teacher
- John Griffin as an English Teacher
- Katie Griffiths as a Teacher Aide
- Fowsiyo Hared Rashid as a Cleaner
- Thomas Harvey as an English and Business and Humanities Teacher
- Kirra Hone as Director of Curriculum Secretary
- Travis Jarman as a Groundsman
- Raceahel Johnson as a Kitchen Hand
- Julie Kerr as Senior Human Resources Advisor
- Deanne Kirkman as the Engagement and Marketing Co-ordinator
- Mathew Krstic as a Groundsman
- Sasha Lea-Rowell as a Teacher Aide
- Stacey Letchford as a Primary Teacher
- Monique Martino as a Teacher
- Jessica Manning as a Year 7 Teacher
- Elma Maquiling as a Cleaner
- Colleen McConnell as a Cleaner
- Kerrie McCormack as a Teacher Aide and Receptionist
- Charlene Moskovitch as the Junior School Music Co-ordinator
- Matthew Nicklin as a Science Teacher
- Ana Novakovic as an Early Education Teacher
- Daniel O'Connor as an English Teacher
- Tracy Pearce as an Early Education Teacher
- Rebecca Pfindst as a Dance/Drama, English and Art Teacher
- Pukjira Phonphiphat as a Cleaner
- Chantal Purs as a Teacher Aide
- Louisa Rains as a Teacher Aide
- Joleen Ransom as a Primary Teacher
- Georgia Richens as a Teacher Aide
- Gabrielle Rosengren as a Business and Humanities and English Teacher
- Iain Rudkin as a Design and Technology Teacher
- Johnson Serra as a Cleaner
- Tracy Stokes as a Teacher Aide
- Noopoti Susan Story as an Early Education Teacher
- Lauren Todd as a Year 7 Teacher
- Jenny Westkamp as a Teacher Aide
- Kathleen Wiseman as a Japanese Teacher

**INTERNAL APPOINTMENTS
FOR CURRENT STAFF:**

- Sarah Binder as Director of Performing Arts
- Donna Crick as Head of Faculty Dance and Drama
- Sophie Durant as Director of Netball
- Kate Hamill as Head of Faculty Music
- Rachel Harte as Careers Advisor
- Kacey Ann Reid as OSHC Co-ordinator

**LONG SERVICE LEAVE
AND OTHER LEAVE:**

- Mady Arthur
- Stephanie Devine
- Sylvie Dewitte
- Isabella Duggan
- Michael Harding
- Elspeth Jones
- Bree Lauro
- Kelly McBean
- Mia Ohlin
- Hue Plumtree
- Tiannie Waterhouse
- Lizzii Watson
- Angela Woodward

**RESIGNATIONS AND
RETIREMENTS:**

- Pablo Acuna
- Teresita Alino
- Sue-Ellen Alloway
- Keely Anderson
- Chloe Beauchamp
- Jaye Beutel
- Catrina Camakaris
- Lachlan Cook
- Jenna Doyle
- Isabella Duggan
- Jacinta Gehringer
- Michael Harding
- Elissa Henderson
- Julie Hills
- Josie Hoffensetz
- Nicole Horwood
- Rodney Hundy
- Wendy Jamieson-Taylor
- Kelly Joubert
- Sophie Kennedy
- Kirsten Kybus
- Regan Leong
- Stacey Letchford
- Jahmila Looney
- Sam Lowry

- Laura Mawhinney
- Ryan McDonnell Melendez
- Ally Minuzzo
- Martin Paulger
- Tracy Pearce
- Madison Plath
- Ashlee Powell
- Chantal Purss
- Anastasia Rasalam
- Georgia Richens
- Connor Rose
- Gabrielle Rosengren
- Iain Rudkin
- Shannon Ryan
- Wendy Saunders
- Theo Schrock
- Susan Scott
- Lucy Smith
- Katie Solari
- Sonia Solari
- Hayley Stewart
- Kathryn Tebble
- Anastasia Theodosiou

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There are eight original Grammar Schools in Queensland, each one being a Statutory Authority. These member schools are Townsville Grammar School, Toowoomba Grammar School, Brisbane Grammar School, Brisbane Girls Grammar School, Rockhampton Grammar School, Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, Ipswich Grammar School and Ipswich Girls Grammar School. Each of these schools is run by body known as the Board of Trustees. Every Board consists of between seven and nine members who offer their services on a voluntary basis to oversee the finance, infrastructure and long-term planning of these schools. As Principal, I report to our Board of Trustees.

I am extremely grateful to the Trustees – the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Mr Carl Valentine, Mrs Bev Price, Mr Grant Bell, Professor Chris Cocklin, Judge Stuart Durward, Mr Michael Koen, Ms Sally McCutcheon, Dr Ian Reddie and Mrs Suzie Wilson – for the support I receive from them and their contribution to the corporate governance of the School. Judge Durward stepped down from the Board in October 2023 after 28 years as a Trustee (including 25 as Chairman). I extend my gratitude to Judge Durward for his leadership of, and commitment to, the Townsville Grammar School community over such a lengthy period of time.

These men and women are not involved in the day-to-day management of the School. Rather their role is to examine and initiate matters relating to the strategic planning of the School and its future direction and to oversee the financial and physical infrastructure of the School. The Board members do not receive payment for their involvement in the life of the School, yet give generously of their time, which is a testament to their commitment to our institution. I thank them most sincerely for their efforts. The entire school community is most grateful to them for the time they devote to school matters and their intelligent and thoughtful analysis of all matters brought to them for consideration.

CONCLUSION

As Principal, I derive great pleasure in reporting on the ongoing success of the School. Across all indicators, the School continues to perform strongly. The academic performance of the School is unquestioned, but it is in the areas of leadership, service and spirit that I sense considerable growth. In the years ahead, we can continue to work together to build upon the development of the whole person.

The staff of this School seek to encourage a teaching and learning environment focusing on the importance of individual commitment and the pursuit of personal best. In doing so, they continually exhibit an exceptional commitment to contribute to the welfare and education of their students. It is not possible for the students to do much of what they do without the input, support and dedication of academic, administrative and grounds staff – I wish to acknowledge their fine work.

I also thank all students for their wonderful endeavour, commitment and spirit demonstrated all year. Each of our students contributes in their own unique way and I take great personal and professional satisfaction in witnessing their individual and collective energy, passion, enthusiasm, humour and warmth. It is the personal qualities of our students and their positive and committed involvement that define Townsville Grammar School and make it such a special place.

I wish our departing Year 12 students all the very best as they move into the next phase of the lives. For many of them they end a long association with the School. They should be proud of their contribution to their School and of their wide-ranging achievements whilst here. As they leave us as students, they do move on to become members of another important group in the School community as our youngest Past Grammarians.

I would also like to express my personal gratitude to my wife, Nicky, for her unqualified support as I devote my own energy, passion and time into the life of the School. Nicky joins me in wishing all members of the Grammar community a wonderful Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. To our returning students and parents, we look forward to seeing you again at the commencement of 2023. For those who leave our community this year, I wish you the very best and encourage you to always remain a part of the TGS family.

With every best wish and thank you for your support of Townsville Grammar School in 2023. Bonus Intra, Melior Exi.

TIMOTHY J. KELLY
PRINCIPAL, NOVEMBER 2023

In Semester 2, we welcomed a new Director of Boarding, Mr Dan Fox, and his family to the School. Mr Fox joined us from The Southport School and brings a long history of boarding involvement in a number of schools to the role.

Furthermore, I wish to acknowledge my Executive Assistant, Mrs Noemi Mintern, for the outstanding assistance and support she provides me in our busy office.



TOWNSVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NORTH WARD

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ANNANDALE

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07 4412 4800

NORTH SHORE

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Burdell, QLD 4818
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